

# STARS STRIPES®

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MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2005

## In the spirit of giving



JOSEPH GIORDANO/Stars and Stripes

**Battalion makes passing out toys, treats a regular part of soldiers' patrols in Iraq** Page 4

Second Lt. Dan Hover, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, gives a blanket to a family in Hora al Bosh, Iraq. As a regular part of their patrols in the area, National Guard soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment have been handing out blankets and toys to children and families in an effort to "win the hearts and minds" of Iraqis who could help bring stability to the region. Gifts such as hot tea or a quick meal are sometimes offered in return.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Suicide threat:** Police detained a Chinese man who, apparently distraught over an immigration issue, approached a security booth outside U.N. headquarters and threatened to kill himself with a knife he held to his throat.

The man went to a booth at 43rd Street and First Avenue around noon Saturday.

A U.N. security guard called emergency services. New York police officers disarmed the man and detained him, a spokesman for the United Nations said. A U.N. translator was summoned to communicate with the man.

The man, whose identity wasn't released, won't be charged but will receive psychiatric care, New York police said. Police said the man was distraught that he was rejected for U.S. residency.

### War on terrorism

**Hassan awarded prize:** The organizers of an Irish peace prize are posthumously giving the award to Margaret Hassan, a respected aid worker abducted and believed murdered in Iraq.

Hassan was being honored with the Tipperary International Peace Prize after paying "the ultimate price for her dedication to the poor and vulnerable in Iraq," organizers said late Saturday.

Irish-born Hassan, the Iraq director of aid agency CARE, was kidnapped in Baghdad in October. British officials say they believe she was killed, although no body has been found.

Hassan, 39, also held British nationality and had lived in Iraq for 30 years.

Previous recipients of the annual Tipperary award include Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachev and Bill Clinton. The prize will be presented to Hassan's relatives during the Tipperary International Festival of Peace in April in this town in central Ireland.

### World

**Sudan peace deal:** The European Union offered \$545 million Sudan to Sudan following a peace agreement between the government and southern rebels, ending a 14-year freeze on development aid.

But it warned the release of the money over the next three years depends on the effective implementation of Friday's peace deal and increased efforts to end a separate conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region.

The Sudanese government signed an agreement Friday in the Kenyan city of Nairobi to end the 21-year war with rebels in the south.

Diplomats hope the momentum created by the peace deal will intensify efforts to end the Darfur conflict which has killed tens of thousands and displaced nearly 2 million from their homes since fighting started in February 2003.

**Myanmar prison releases:** More than 5,500 convicts were freed Sunday from several labor camps on humanitarian grounds to commemorate Myanmar's independence day, the ruling military junta said.

A brief announcement on state radio and television news broadcasts said the 5,508 convicts were released "with the hope that those people will continue to work in the interest of the people and the country and to mark the 57th anniversary of Independence Day."

Myanmar gained independence from Britain on Jan. 4, 1948, after more than 120 years of colonial rule.



**Argentina nightclub fire:** Relatives and friends of a victim of a Buenos Aires nightclub fire cry during a ceremony beside a grave Saturday. As the death toll crept higher to 188, anguished family members began burying victims of Thursday's fire, which investigators believe may have been sparked when someone in the crowd set off a flare that ignited the foam ceiling, transforming the indoor rock concert into a death-trap. Several hundred people protested outside the offices of Mayor Anibal Ibarra on Sunday, demanding tougher safety codes for rock clubs and a full government accounting for the country's worst fire in decades.

In November and December, the junta released 14,381 prisoners in three batches because of possible "irregularities" in charges brought against them by the former National Intelligence Bureau, headed by Prime Minister Gen. Khin Nyunt, who has since been sacked.

**Drug lord arrest:** Police said Saturday they have arrested one of Rio de Janeiro's most wanted drug lords.

Eduno Eustaquio de Araujo Filho, who goes by the nickname Dudu, was arrested on charges of drug trafficking Friday night in an apartment in the suburbs of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Police Chief Alvaro Lins said.

The 33-year-old suspect had been monitored closely since August, when undercover police officers rented an apartment in the same building where his girlfriend lived.

Police had been after him since he escaped prison in January while serving a 30-year drug trafficking sentence.

In April, Dudu was blamed for setting off a bloody turf war that claimed nearly 20 lives in the Rocinha shantytown.

**Immigrant boat capsizes:** A boat carrying Somali and Iranian migrants trying illegally to reach Greece capsized on Sunday, killing the captain and one migrant, the Anatolia news agency reported.

The Turkish Coast Guard rescued 12 other migrants in the Aegean Sea, and the coast of Ayvalik in northwest Turkey, and one migrant was missing, Anatolia reported.

The migrants were trying to reach the Greek island of Lesbos.

**Haiti anniversary:** Haiti's leaders marked the country's 201st anniversary of indepen-

dence Saturday while protesters demanded more help in this flood-ravaged city where political tensions still linger almost a year after a revolt that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In the northern city of Gonaves, where the country's declaration of independence from slave-holding France was signed Jan. 1, 1804, Interim President Boniface Alexandre urged Haitians to help pave the way for "free, honest, transparent and democratic elections" this year.

The crowded heckled Gonaves Mayor Calixte Valentin when he introduced Alexandre and other speakers, shouting "Get out!"

**Czech influence in EU:** Former President Vaclav Havel warned Sunday that if Czechs fail to ratify the European Union constitution, they will lose their influence over the process of European integration.

EU leaders signed the charter in October in Rome, following 28 months of acrimonious debate between governments of the 25 member states. All EU member countries must now ratify the constitution for it to come into force.

It was not yet clear whether the document will be ratified by the Czech parliament or by a referendum in the Czech Republic, which joined the EU on May 1 along with nine other mostly ex-communist nations.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

### Correction

In Sunday's editions, a photo caption with a story about military members' memories of 2004 incorrectly identified Jennifer Arquette, who is pictured with her family.

**Comics, horoscopes, advice —  
every day in Stars and Stripes**

# Car bomb north of Baghdad kills 19 Iraqis

## 10 others killed in separate attacks as militants target countrymen helping American forces

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb north of Baghdad on Sunday, killing 19 Iraqis — all but one of them National Guardsmen — in another strike against Iraqis cooperating with American forces, the U.S. military said. Four Iraqi policemen were killed in a separate attack further north.

The car bomb blast near Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, also wounded six guardsmen, U.S. military spokesman Maj. Neal E. O'Brien said. The bomb detonated as their bus passed close to a U.S. base.

An Iraqi civilian — the bus driver — was among the 19 killed while the other casualties were members of Iraq's 203rd National Guard Battalion. The driver of the car that exploded also died.

Also Sunday, U.S. Task Force Baghdad soldiers were attacked in the southwest of the capital when their patrol was struck by a car bomb, the military said. Two soldiers were wounded in the attack. The suicide bomber was killed.

"Those responsible for suicide attacks are seeking to halt Iraq's progress on the path to democracy," O'Brien said.

Meanwhile, the United States said it had significantly increased troop strength in Mosul to provide security ahead of the Jan. 30 elections for a constitutional assembly. The city has seen stepped-up insurgent attacks on both American and Iraqi forces in the weeks since U.S. troops captured the guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah in mid-November.

Two brigade-sized units, consisting of Iraqi forces and elements of the 82nd Airborne Divi-

sion, were deployed to augment the 8,000 troops already in Mosul, military spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said. Brigades can include 2,000-4,000 soldiers.

In the other attack, four policemen were killed while on patrol in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, the military said. A fifth was wounded. Both Samarra and Balad are in the so-called Sunni Triangle, the scene of frequent assaults on U.S. and Iraqi security forces.

In other violence Sunday, Col. Abdel Karim Riyadi, the police chief in Jebelah, a town 40 miles south of Baghdad, was killed when gunmen stormed his house, police said.

Assaults also killed a police officer in a drive-by shooting in southern Baghdad late Saturday, police commissioner Najm Eid said. A Shiite cleric also was killed in the Baghdad neighborhood of Amil, he said.

Gunmen shot dead a deputy governor of the eastern Diyala province in his car, doctor Ahmed Fouad at the Baqoubah General Hospital said Sunday.

The attacks came a day after al-Qaida's arm in Iraq issued a video showing militants executing five Iraqi security officers in the street, the latest move in their campaign to intimidate Iraqis and target those collaborating with U.S.-led forces.

A statement posted Saturday on an Islamist Web site along with the video denounced the officers as "American dogs" and threatened other Iraqis with the same fate if they joined security forces.

The U.S. military and the interim government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi want the Iraqi police and National Guard to provide se-



In western Baghdad, a U.S. Army expert wearing protective suit inspects a vehicle parked on the side of the road that was suspected of containing explosives on Sunday. No explosives were found in the car. Another car bomb north of Baghdad exploded on Sunday, killing 19 Iraqi National Guardsmen and the bus driver.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,329 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,042 died as a result of hostile action. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Thursday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia,

three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,191 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 933 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Saturday in roadside explosion north of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

## Enforcing ban on black market gas



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

An interpreter working with U.S. forces talks to an Iraqi man caught selling gasoline in containers along a main highway in southern Baghdad as Staff Sgts. Bryce Rigby, left, and Matthew Bittenbender, of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, monitor the conversation. Hundreds of cars wait up to half a day for gas at area stations, so some Iraqis fill containers and sell them on the street for up to twice the normal price. U.S. troops ban the sale of black market gasoline, partly because cars stopping on roadsides for gas may cause accidents.

## U.S. soldier, Afghan killed in firefight

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. soldier and a former Afghan militia leader were killed Sunday when American troops clashed with gunmen during a search operation in western Afghanistan, U.S. and Afghan officials said.

Meanwhile, an American aid worker escaped an apparent kidnapping attempt by a group of gunmen in the capital, Kabul.

The troops came under attack from "an unknown number of enemy forces" while searching a compound near Shindand Airfield in Herat province early Sunday morning and returned fire, a U.S. military statement said.

"The Afghan citizen died at the scene," the statement said.

"The U.S. soldier was wounded in the attack and ... died a short time later at the airfield as a result of wounds received."

The soldier's name was being withheld until his next of kin could be notified.

The military also didn't identify the dead Afghan, or say if he was a suspected militant or a bystander.

But a local militia commander, Akhtar Mohammed Hussein, said the compound belonged to a former militia leader called Mullah Dost.

"There was fire from both sides. Mullah Dost was killed along with his wife, and two of their children were injured," Hussein said by telephone. "The Americans wanted to search his house, but we don't know who fired first."

Ziauddin Mahmoodi, the provincial police chief, said Dost was a veteran of the war against Soviet occupiers in the 1980s, and later aligned with the Taliban. He said Dost also served briefly as police chief in Shindand district last year.

The dead soldier was the first U.S. combat casualty this year and at least the 117th here since Enduring Freedom began in late 2001.

It was also the first since the start of Operation Lightning Freedom, the latest phase of the U.S. military operation in Afghanistan, which began after Hamid Karzai's inauguration as the country's first directly elected president in early December.

U.S. and Afghan government forces have been stationed at Shindand Airfield, about 400 miles west of Kabul, since intervening to halt bloody factional fighting in the region near the Iranian border in August.

Dozens of Afghan militiamen were killed in the battles, which resulted in the ouster of local strongman Ismail Khan as governor of Herat province, but there were no American victims.

Gunmen tried to abduct the American aid worker in Kabul on Sunday afternoon, but gave up when he resisted, the victim and Afghan police said.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Kabul said its officials were looking into the incident.

# With toys and tea, patrols near Taji foster good will

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

HORA AL BOSH, Iraq—Sometimes, it's the soldiers who give out the gifts. Sometimes, it's the soldiers who get them.

As a regular part of their patrols in the areas around Taji, the National Guard soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment have been handing out blankets and toys to children and families in an effort to "win the hearts and minds" of people who could help bring stability to the region.

And on days like Thursday, the soldiers are treated as welcome guests, invited to share a quick meal and some hot tea.

During a patrol near Hora al Bosh, a small farming village largely made up of crumbling stone and brick compounds, members of 1st Platoon, Company A kept an eye out for danger as they tried to attend to the community. At the beginning of the patrol, they walked through the village streets, handing out a half-dozen thick blankets to what appeared to be the families most in need.

"I remember this house. Let's give one to them," said 2nd Lt. Dan Hover, a 31-year-old from Medina, Ohio, gesturing to a group of young girls peering between the doors of a red metal gate.

As the soldiers moved through the streets, they gathered the customary crowd of children, who asked for such wide-ranging items as pens, water and money. The kids helped up younger siblings, chanting "baby! baby!" in hopes of enticing the soldiers to give them something.

Soldiers from the battalion said Hora al Bosh is a hard town to read. Some days, they are welcomed with smiles and waves and on other days people stare at the patrols from behind locked gates and fences.

After they had handed out all the blankets, the soldiers got back into their Humvees and patrolled the surrounding area, looking for weapons caches and possible spots for roadside bombs. As they stopped to search a set of fallow fields, two boys approached the soldiers and gave them freshly baked flatbread, still warm from the oven.

The boys then went back into the farmhouse, and returned with hot tea and sugar.

As the sun went down, the soldiers set up a traffic checkpoint, searching passing cars.

Before the patrol went out on its trips, members were paid a



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stars and Stripes

During a Friday patrol, an Iraqi boy gives freshly baked flatbread to Spc. Acisclo Melendez of Company A, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry.

surprise visit by Maj. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, which has responsibility for the areas in and around Baghdad.

Chiarelli spent part of Thursday visiting the 1st of the 69th, thanking soldiers, checking on their progress in the area and asking what support they needed.

As the squad's members lined up their Humvees to roll out, Chiarelli wanted their input. The

soldiers asked about more helmet clips for their night vision devices, side arms for Humvee gunners and more hand-mikes for their radios.

Chiarelli listened to the requests, promised to get answers for the soldiers and left them with a simple but direct message about getting complacent on their patrols: "Don't be predictable," he said.

E-mail Joseph Giordono at giordonoj@pstrips.osd.mil



On a patrol that also included distributing blankets and gifts to local residents, members of Company A sweep a field where they suspect a weapons cache might be buried.

## Iraq-bound Marines to get improved Humvee armor

The Associated Press

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — Marines who deploy to Iraq this year will have improved armor on their Humvees, an upgrade that has nothing to do with recent criticism of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the Marines said.

Lack of armor has been a source of controversy in Iraq where some in the field, citing insufficient protection, have outfitted their vehicles with homemade armor found in landfills.

During a visit to Kuwait in December, a National Guardsman asked Rumsfeld why the Army had not provided sufficient armor for his unit's vehicles. Rumsfeld answered, "You go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you might want or wish to have."

A maintenance officer with Camp Lejeune's 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit said this armor upgrade has been in the works for some time and had nothing to do with the exchange.

The military started working to armor about 150 Humvees and about 50 trucks for the Marines in December and worked to finish before Christmas, officials said.

"We've been working on this since February," said Chief Warrant Officer Sam Hammonds, a 24-year Marine Corps veteran.

"This kit is better than before because we had time to develop a more comprehensive kit that's been tested, and it will save lives."

Lt. Col. Doug Henderson, commander of MEU Service Support Group 26, said the project was developed in a combined effort by Marine Corps Systems Command at Quantico, Va., and the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Ga.

"The Marine Corps just developed the latest generation of armor for our light-skinned vehicles," Henderson said. "All our vehicles going to Operations Iraqi Freedom are getting armor."

The Marine Armor Kit has been through what military officials called exhaustive testing at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. It's considered an improvement from the rapidly deployed Armor-Up program of earlier this year.

While deployed to Kuwait in July, members of Lejeune's 24th MEU used a system called Armor-Up on every Marine vehicle going into Iraq. It included bolt-on composite armor on all vehicles, especially Humvees and trucks that were not already equipped.

The new armor comes with thicker ballistic glass for windshields, as well as ballistic glass for windows, which were not covered under the Armor-Up program.

There is also improved armor plating under the vehicle, on the back of the vehicle and behind the seats.

The 26th MEU is in the middle of its six-month pre-deployment training and will head to Iraq in March.

## The road to recovery



JOE BATTLE/U.S. Army

U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker pins a Purple Heart on Staff Sgt. Garth Johnson on Wednesday at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. Johnson was awarded the medal for injuries he sustained during the attack on the dining facility in Mosul, Iraq, on Dec. 21. During his visit, Schoomaker also presented two additional Purple Hearts and visited with patients and staff at Landstuhl.



# U.S.: Syria border security is better

## Armitage visit focuses on nation's alleged role in Iraqi insurgency

BY ZEINA KARAM  
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — The U.S. State Department's second-ranking official on Sunday said Syria had improved security along its border with Iraq but needs to do more to keep armed supporters of ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from sneaking across.

Syria has made some real improvements in recent months on border security. But we all need to do more, particularly on the question of former regime elements participating in activities in Iraq, going back and forth from Syria," Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told reporters in Damascus.

Armitage arrived in Syria Sunday for talks with officials here on Syria's alleged role in the Iraqi insurgency and the infiltration of fighters across the Syrian border into Iraq. Syria has denied the charges.

After a short stop at the U.S. Embassy in Damascus, Armitage headed straight for talks with Syrian President Bashar Assad and his Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa. He was accompanied

by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State William Burns.

U.S.-Syria relations have been strained over U.S. accusations that Syria was meddling in Iraqi affairs, as well as Syria's involvement in neighboring Lebanon. A few months ago, Washington imposed sanctions on Syria under an act that accuses Damascus of seeking weapons of mass destruction, a charge Syria denies, and hosting Palestinian groups Washington deems terrorist.

In September, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution introduced by Washington and Paris calling on Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon and dismantle the Syrian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah guerrilla group.

More recently, President Bush has warned Syria and Iran against "meddling" in the internal affairs of Iraq.

Washington and Baghdad have said that key support for the insurgency was coming from a half brother of Saddam Hussein and Baath Party leaders based in Syria.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Alawi has said he had "adequate

and accurate information" about Syria planning attacks on Iraq and has sent a letter to Assad asking the Syrian authorities to hand over "wanted elements and those accused of planning and executing" attacks to Iraqi authorities.

Al-Sharaa denied the charges last week.

Measures to combat the insurgency are taking on increasing importance for both Iraq and the United States as the Jan. 30 national elections in Iraq rapidly approach. The insurgents are trying to disrupt the elections.

Armitage said he stressed to the Syrian leadership the "absolute importance" of the Iraqi elections and the need to have full Iraqi participation. "I believe I found here in Syria the same view," he said.

Armitage also said he called on Syria to withdraw from Lebanon and warned Syria against interfering in parliamentary elections due to be held in Lebanon in May.

Syria, with some 14,000 troops stationed in Lebanon, is the main power broker in that country. There have been growing international and local calls in Lebanon



Armitage

for Syria to stop interfering in Lebanese affairs.

Syria's official news agency SANA said Assad discussed with the U.S. delegation "the situation in Iraq and the political process there, including the elections." It said the two sides also discussed the Mideast peace process.

Armitage, who will also travel to Jordan and Turkey, which also border Iraq, arrived here from northern Iraq, where he paid a surprise visit.

### Spy plane crashes

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — An unmanned spy plane crashed near a Pakistani village along the Afghan border, an army spokesman said Sunday. No injuries were reported.

Maj. Gen. Shaikat Sultan would not say whether the drone, which crashed late Saturday in North Waziristan, belonged to the U.S. military, which has thousands of forces hunting al-Qaida and Taliban militants on the Afghan side of the rugged border.

### Reservist's auction

SAN FRANCISCO — An 18-year-old Army reservist whose decision to auction off sports memorabilia to buy equipment for his unit drew criticism has raised nearly \$3,000.

Sean Flynn's plans became public last month as the military was being criticized for not adequately supplying some troops in Iraq.

The 10-day eBay auction ended last week and raised \$2,806, plus about \$1,000 in donations.

Half the total will go to support Mothers of Military Servicemen, while the remainder will buy a luxury item such as a laptop computer or satellite phone for the Mother. View-billed 445th Civil Affairs Battalion.

From The Associated Press

# 2nd Platoon takes pride in protecting al Daura power plant

BY JASON CHUDY  
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — It's not quite a forward operating base and it's an awfully big target, but soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment are holding down the fort at the al Daura power plant in southern Baghdad.

"This power plant is one of four in Baghdad that supplies power to the city," said 2nd Lt. Elery Wallace, 2nd Platoon leader. "It's one of the crown jewels of the division because of its importance to the Iraqi people."

And, in a country where insurgents have attacked public utilities in order to undermine American troops, full-time security is a necessity.

Platoons from the company do four-month stints at al Daura, mainly providing security for the site. The unit's 2nd Platoon took over last month and will remain until the company leaves Iraq.

"We also make sure all (guard) towers are manned by (Electrical Power Security Service) guards," Wallace said. "We also patrol the surrounding sector and ensure runways are open (around) the power plant."

The platoon also mans an observation post and serves as a quick-reaction force for the facility or other company units operating in the area.

One of the platoon's soldiers also serves as the unofficial "mayor" of the plant. "I'm a middle man ... between the EPSS and the power plant manager and the (contractor) Bechtel security team," said current "mayor" Staff Sgt. Alberto Gordillo.

"If EPSS needs shield for their machine guns I go through the power plant to get them for them," he said.

Gordillo receives daily updates on nearly everything that happens at the plant, whether with Iraqi workers or contractors, equipment problems and EPSS security issues.

"We need to know who comes in, goes out and when they came in and went out," said Gordillo.



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Richard Letarte, left, and Spc. Rollin Senger are on duty at an observation post at the al Daura power plant in southern Baghdad. Their platoon provides security for the facility, which is one of four power plants supplying electricity in Baghdad.

He walked through the nearly deserted plant on a recent Friday, the Muslim holy day. About 700 Iraqis normally commute to work at the plant and American and foreign contractors live full-time on the compound.

He met with a handful of engineers manning the control room for the two working generators and then caught up with one of the plant's senior officials.

Having no soldiers on site keeps the plant safe, said the man, who asked not to be identified. In the past the plant had been hit with mortars, which in turn caused many of the workers to stay home. Through aggressive patrolling by the company, attacks now are infrequent at best.

But, the official said, it's not just plant security that affects their operations.

A recent attack on a natural gas pipeline elsewhere in the country caused problems at the plant, he said.

After shaking hands with Gordillo, the official departed with his German protective escort in tow. The "mayor" returned to his rounds, leaving the plant to make a quick trip along a row of EPSS guard towers.

Back at the platoon's compound, Pfc. Luke Mahosky manned the unit's radios. He enjoys the duty at the power plant, he said.

"The patrols are easier, life is easier and uniforms are less strict," he said. Soldiers back at Camp Falcon need to be in full uni-

**"I never thought I'd need to learn anything about a power plant."**

Staff Sgt. Alberto Gordillo  
Unofficial mayor  
of al Daura power plant

form and body armor before they leave the company building, but at the power plant everything takes place in their one building. It does have its downside, though, Mahosky said.

"There's a lot we don't have (like) around the FOB — the PX, a big selection (of equipment) at the gym and different selections for chow here," he said. "You sacrifice those luxuries."

Soldiers make a daily logistics run back to the camp to bring everything they need, including hot food from the FOB dining facility, although they only receive one large food delivery a day.

"Every now and then we plan missions to go to the Green (International) Zone or BIAP (Camp Liberty) to get them a chance to buy and see things," Wallace said.

"There's also more privacy and free time for yourself," said the 22-year-old Mahosky. A handful of Internet-capable computers also allow the platoon virtually unlimited access to e-mail and instant messaging.

Their location also allows them more interaction with Iraqis.

"I have learned a lot more of the language out here," Mahosky said. They can also ask the "terps" (interpreters) to go to the market and get Iraqi food — some of those things I've never had before.

All agreed, however, that they've learned some new things through their time at the facility.

"Oh yeah," Gordillo said. "I never thought I'd need to learn anything about a power plant."

E-mail Jason Chudy at:  
chudyj@mail.estripes.odm.mil



JOE GROMELSKY/Stars and Stripes

From left: Marine Corps Pfc. Jeff Sanders, of Millmont, Pa., sits with his mother at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Dale Beatty, of North Carolina, shows off a bracelet like the ones members of his unit back in Iraq are selling to help his family; Marine Corp Cpl. Mark O'Brien of Buffalo, N.Y., paints a model car at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

# They would do it again, no matter the cost

## Wounded troops' first wish is to get back to battlefield

BY LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Pfc. Jeff Sanders lost his left leg three months ago when his Humvee struck a roadside bomb about 30 miles south of Baghdad.

If the Marines would let him, the 22-year-old would gladly risk his other leg, too.

"There is absolutely nothing else I'd rather do than get back out there," he said. "To be back with the unit, if it meant I could save one of their lives, I'd lose the other leg. I'd do it all over again."

"You don't realize how much you care for those guys until you're not there with them."

Sanders said most of the soldiers he has met at Walter Reed Army Medical Center also want to get back to the battlefield and, more importantly, back with their units. Despite the trauma of their injuries, most would return to danger if they could.

"I feel like I'm failing them," said Pfc. Joe Ramsey, a 20-year-old who lost his right arm during a car bomb attack in the Sunni Triangle. "I know I shouldn't feel that way, but I do. And this place isn't the real Army..."

Ramsey's unit was in Korea for almost a year before deploying to Iraq, he joked that the guys were getting a "bad reputation" for their loud parties while off duty.

Now, during his down time at the hospital, he tries to call them between shifts, but only gets to talk to them every few days.

"I miss the guys," he said.

Staff Sgt. Dale Beatty, 26, had been squad leader with his North Carolina Army National Guard unit for almost eight years before he lost both legs in February.

His unit has been selling bracelets made of rope to raise funds for his recovery, and has raised about \$3,000 so far. He wears one, too, and tugs at it every time he talks about them.



Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Joe L. Bowser, of Kentucky, moves through the halls at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"When I would go on leave, just for 15 days, I would feel guilty and need to be reunited with the guys," he said. "Now, I just want to get back with my guys."

Physical therapy provides some relief for soldiers like Beatty, who approaches his daily exercises like an assigned mission.

Since a rocket attack took Staff Sgt. Joe L. Bowser's right leg in April, his rehabilitation has included going skiing several times on a prosthetic limb. The 45-year-old knows all the staff in the physical therapy department and teases other patients around him for not having "real" injuries.

But when he talks about the soldiers still in Iraq, his excited, booming voice softens.

"Most of them were a lot younger than me, so it was like being with my kids," Bowser said. "My battle buddy was 18 years old, and she reminded me of my daughter."

## Bonds soldiers develop are very strong

WASHINGTON — Experts say a soldier's desire to return to the battlefield, even after a serious injury, is not surprising.

Leonard Wong, a professor of military strategy at the U.S. Army War College, said the main concern of soldiers on the battlefield is keeping their friends safe.

Even if they have been hurt, they still have that sense of duty to their unit.

"They feel a social obligation with their friends," he said. "It's a responsibility that the group has put on them, to go out there and fight."

In a 2003 study of soldiers shortly after the end of major combat operations in Iraq, Wong found that while some soldiers fight because of a sense of larger political ideals, the primary motivation for most is simply keeping themselves and their fellow troops safe.

He said even those he met who had suffered significant trauma — like losing a close friend in battle — wanted to stay to help keep others safe.

"When I talked to officers their No. 1 fear was always losing somebody," he said. "It's not just about self-survival."

Dr. Paul Hanges, an organizational psychologist at University of Maryland, said the desire to return to the battlefield, even after a horrific injury, shows how strong the bonds soldiers develop with each other can be.

"They may have been shot, but they see their buddies still back on the line," Hanges said. "Even after a stressful and life-threatening situation, they want to go help them."

— Leo Shane

His makeshift Reserve unit trained for only a month before they entered Iraq last January, but he considers them a second family.

"You get close quick," the 45-year-old said. "They tell me they don't want me back out there, because I already did enough for them. But it's hard."

"When I got hurt, I was having more problems with not being with them than I was dealing with my lost leg."

The Department of Defense has made efforts in recent months to return wounded soldiers to active duty, even close to the battlefield. Col. Daniel Garvey, deputy commander of the Army's physical disability agency, said greater numbers of seriously wounded soldiers are returning to service because of a new emphasis on the experience and insight they can bring to units.

Navy medic Jose Ramos lost his left hand in a shoulder-fired rocket attack, but after six months of treatments he has been approved to return to duty in the coming

weeks. He will likely serve at stations outside Iraq, which is not as close to the front lines as he would have liked.

"I've been ready to go back since the day I was hurt," the 24-year-old said. "I love the field, and I love being out there helping the Marines."

But the others know they likely won't get the same opportunity.

Ramsey has already talked to Army officials about continuing his military career in some way, although he admits it won't be anything like his combat service.

Cpl. Mark O'Brien, 22, lost his right arm in an ambush in April and has decided to go back to college instead. He isn't happy with the decision.

"I wish I could go back and fight with my friends," he said, his voice shaking. "You can ask pretty much anyone in here and they'll tell you they want to go back."

"But it's time for me to move on. It's just tough not to be there with them."

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.com



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker, left, awards the Purple Heart to Sgt. Douglas McManama of Sandston, Va., injured in the suicide attack on U.S. troops in Mosul in December. Schoomaker is wearing the Army's digital camouflage test uniform.

RICHMOND (VA.)  
TIMES-DISPATCH  
AP

## Schoomaker wearing flag patch differently on Army test uniform

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — When Gen. Peter Schoomaker visited troops in Iraq last week, a alert reader noticed he was wearing sleeve patches the opposite of how they were told to put them on.

The Army chief of staff had his U.S. flag patch above his combat patch, contrary to Army reg-

ulations.

The reader sent an e-mail to Stars and Stripes: Had Army regulations changed?

No, said Army spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty. Schoomaker is wearing the digital camouflage test uniform.

In February, Schoomaker directed soldiers to wear the flag patch on the right shoulder of their battle dress uniform, or BDU — sewn below the combat

patch, if they had one, so soldiers didn't have to rip a patch off and re-sew it on, only lower.

The new BDUs have Velcro fields on both arms to eliminate the sewing of rank and patches.

The regulations governing the wearing of those BDUs, including the mandatory adoption phase-in date for the entire Army, "will be released within the next several weeks," Hilferty wrote.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: [burgessl@stripes.com](mailto:burgessl@stripes.com) or [burgessl@stripes.mil](mailto:burgessl@stripes.mil)

## Bell overseas ceremony

TIKRIT, Iraq — Fifteen 1st Infantry Division soldiers re-enlisted Saturday at a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Danger, near Tikrit, according to a 1st ID press release.

The ceremony was officiated by U.S. Army Europe Commander Gen. B.B. Bell. All the re-enlisting soldiers received a tax-free, lump sum bonus.

In addition, Bell promoted twin brothers at the ceremony, the release said.

Bell promoted Staff Sgts. Leon and Levon Franklin, both of whom work in the 1st Infantry Division personnel section.

The brothers have shared duty stations since basic training and have been with the Big Red One for nearly four years, the release said.

From staff reports



JOE ALGER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

U.S. Army Europe commander Gen. B.B. Bell promotes twin brothers Staff Sgt. Leon Franklin, left, and Staff Sgt. Levon Franklin on Saturday at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit. In addition, Bell oversaw re-enlistment ceremonies of 15 other 1st Infantry Division soldiers at the base.

# U.S. readying plans for indefinite jailing of terror suspects

BY DANA PRIEST  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Administration officials are preparing long-range plans for indefinitely imprisoning suspected terrorists whom they do not want to set free or turn over to courts in the United States or other countries, according to intelligence, defense and diplomatic officials.

The Pentagon and the CIA have asked the White House to decide on a more permanent approach for potentially life-time detentions, including for hundreds of people now in military and CIA custody whom the government does not have enough evidence to charge in courts. The outcome of the review, which also involves the State Department, would also affect those expected to be captured in the course of future counterterrorism operations.

"We've been operating in the moment because that's what has been required," said a senior administration official involved in the discussions, who said the current detention system has strained relations between the United States and other countries. "Now we can take a breath. We have the ability and need to look at long-term solutions."

One proposal under review is the transfer of large numbers of Afghan, Saudi and Yemeni detainees from the military's Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center

into new U.S.-built prisons in their home countries. The prisons would be operated by those countries but the State Department, where this idea originated, would ask them to abide by recognized human rights standards and would monitor compliance, the senior administration official said.

As part of a solution, the Defense Department, which holds 500 prisoners at Guantanamo

*One proposal under review is the transfer of large numbers of Afghan, Saudi and Yemeni detainees from the military's Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center into new U.S.-built prisons in their home countries.*

Bay, plans to ask Congress for \$25 million to build a 200-bed prison to hold detainees who are unlikely to ever go through a military tribunal for lack of evidence, according to defense officials.

The new prison, dubbed Camp 6, would allow inmates more comfort and freedom than they have now, and would be designed for prisoners whom the government believes have no more intelligence to share, the officials said. It would be modeled on a U.S. prison and would allow

socializing among inmates.

"Since global war on terror is a long-term effort it makes sense for us to be looking at solutions for long-term problems," said Bryan Whitman, a Pentagon spokesman.

The administration considers its toughest detention problem to involve the prisoners held by the CIA. The CIA has been scurrying since Sept. 11, 2001, to find secure locations abroad where it could detain and interrogate captives without risk of discovery, and without having to give them access to legal proceedings.

## Budget cuts could hit Raptor production

BY RENAE MERLE  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is considering cutting some of its largest programs, including the F/A-22 Raptor, to help bring down the budget deficit during the next few years and offset war costs, according to congressional and industry sources.

The proposals are considered tentative and have not been approved by the Office of Management and Budget or Congress, where they could face substantial resistance. The Pentagon is not scheduled to release its fiscal 2006 budget proposal until February.

The proposal also is expected to include significant cuts to the Navy's shipbuilding

budget. "No service is getting away scot-free," said a Senate aide, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the process is in its early stages.

The cuts would confirm Wall Street and industry concerns that the Pentagon's hefty budget eventually would have to be tempered to offset the cost of the war and the budget deficit. In an interview last week, James Albaugh, president of Boeing Co.'s defense unit, said budget pressure was the chief obstacle facing the industry next year.

"The big programs are all going to be looked at, just because of their size," Albaugh said.

Defense Department spokesman Eric Ruff said nothing is final until the budget is submitted and that the 2006 budget is likely to include an overall increase.

The Navy's budget proposal already includes several program reductions, including building only four ships in fiscal 2006, compared with nine planned for the current fiscal year, and delaying production of a new generation of destroyers, defense and industry sources have said.

Under the proposal, Lockheed Martin Corp.'s F/A-22 would remain fully funded through 2008 with the company building 24 to 26 of the planes a year, according to the sources. But funding for the program could stop or dwindle after 2008, the sources said. The cuts would mean Lockheed would produce 160 to 170 of the aircraft instead of the 277 the Air Force currently projects, the sources said.

Any cuts to the Raptor are expected to be resisted by supporters in Congress.



LOCKHEED MARTIN/AP

The F/A-22 Raptor could be a casualty of Defense Department budget cuts, according to congressional and industry sources. However, the Pentagon will not release its budget plans until February.

## IN THE STATES

## Iraq, Iran, North Korea at the top of Bush's agenda

BY ANNE GEARAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The three countries President Bush called the "axis of evil" in his first term are at the top of his foreign policy to-do list in the second, along with a revitalized Mideast peace process and continued efforts to repair European alliances frayed by the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

War and reconstruction in Iraq are likely to continue to command more attention than any other international issues, at least for the first couple of years of Bush's new four-year term.

"The first priority has got to be getting Iraq right," said Max Boot, a conservative expert on national security at the Council on Foreign Relations.

But in the short run, the Bush administration also must juggle a complicated response to the devastation from the tsunamis across South Asia amid some complaints that the rich United States is not doing enough.

The massive relief effort — for which the United States increased its financial aid commitment Friday to \$350 million — is drawing attention away from preparations for elections scheduled for Jan. 30 in Iraq, but the distraction will probably be brief.

On Iraq, the administration will get a real and perceived boost in credibility if elections scheduled there for the end of this month come off well. Boot and others said. Another round of elections is planned for later in 2005.

The alternative — protracted turmoil and violence that the United States cannot control — would complicate U.S. foreign policy far

beyond Iraq.

Bush seemed to acknowledge that Iraq remains Job No. 1 during a year-end news conference.

"We have a vital interest in the success of a free Iraq. You see, free societies do not export terror," Bush said.

Iran and North Korea, the other two countries in Bush's famous axis, loom nearly as large as Iraq. The United States suspects both countries are on their way to possessing nuclear weapons, or already have them. Both have repressive or authoritarian governments that could interfere with their neighbors or worse.

U.S. policy in all three nations is yoked to the continuing war on terrorism, since all three are potential training grounds or arsenals for terrorists.

Bush must decide how much to push Iran and North Korea diplomatically; how much to cooperate with European efforts to contain the nuclear threats; and how much to listen to hawks in his own government who may press for unilateral strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities.

At the same time, Bush may play a central role in the next phase of peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. For now, Britain is taking that lead while all sides await the outcome of Jan. 9 elections to choose a successor to Yasser Arafat.

China will probably also be a major focus of U.S. economic and diplomatic efforts during Bush's next four years, and not just because of its vast size and resources. China could help contain or confront North Korea, said Patrick Cronin, a foreign policy analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Bush will also have a wary eye on Russia, the Cold War nemesis turned ally in the war on terror. The administration chose mostly to hold its tongue as Russian President Vladimir Putin consolidated political and economic power while muting independent media organizations, but may now adopt a harder line.

## Rose Parade celebrates the family



American Honda Motor Company's 207-foot-long float "Families Across America," the longest float in the Rose Parade's history, makes its way down Saturday during the 116th annual parade in Pasadena, Calif. This year's theme was "Celebrate the Family," and Mickey Mouse was the parade's grand marshal.

## Largest Texas National Guard unit ready for Iraq deployment

BY ANGELA K. BROWN  
The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — More than 25,000 friends and family members of Texas National Guard troops turned out Saturday for a sendoff ceremony for the 3,000 soldiers headed to Iraq this week — the largest Texas Guard deployment since World War II.

Gov. Rick Perry and U.S. Sen. John Cornyn were among those in Baylor University's football stadium to support the 56th Brigade Combat Team, 36th Infantry Division.

Several hundred members of the brigade, based in Fort Worth with soldiers from more than 20 cities, were scheduled to leave Saturday night and the rest within the week from Fort Hood in Killeen. They are to spend a year in Iraq.

The crowd waved flags, cheered and gave standing ovations as the soldiers ran onto the field to start the ceremony.

"When history is written, let it show that the Texas National Guard helped ensure that the children present today and the children of Iraq will have the opportunity to grow up as free men and

women," said Cornyn, a Republican and member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Among the family members at Saturday's ceremony was Jamie Melendrez. She recently married Sgt. Augustine Melendrez of Amarillo, and the two are expecting a baby in April.

"It makes me nervous," she said. "I don't like to watch the news now, so I don't know if I'll watch it when he's gone."

Augustine Melendrez, a corrections officer for Texas Department of Criminal Justice, was in the Army for 16 years and has been in the National Guard for five years. He said he's not looking forward to being overseas when his child is born.

"It's going to be hard," he said. The brigade has been officially mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom since mid-August, and soldiers have been in training since then.

While some have criticized exactly how well soldiers in Iraq are armed, Col. James K. Brown, commander of the 56th Brigade, reassured families that the soldiers will have the "latest and greatest equipment available in the world."

He also said the troops are ready for the task.

"These are tough times, but we are Texans and we are tough people," Brown said.

Douglas Mueller, 25, who recently completed boot camp, hugged his curly haired, 2-year-old daughter Beth and chatted with his wife Samantha after the ceremony.

Mueller left the Dallas-area construction company he started and joined the Texas National Guard earlier this year. He said he felt "violated" after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and wanted to help fight the war on terror.

"I figured that I was still young and I could do something," Mueller said. "A lot of my family didn't want me to do it because of what was happening with the war. I sat down and thought about it, and what it comes down to is I'm willing to sacrifice my life to give other people the privileges that I have."

All 3,000 soldiers received a 140-minute phone card to call home from Iraq.

About 21,000 people serve in the Texas Air and Army National Guard, including about 1,000 already in Iraq, officials said.



Rep. Robert Matsui

## Longtime Calif. congressman, Robert Matsui, dies

The Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. — Democratic Rep. Robert T. Matsui of California, who spent time in an internment camp for Japanese-Americans as an infant during World War II and went on to serve 26 years in Congress representing the Sacramento area, has died of complications from a rare disease, his family said Sunday.

Matsui, 63, died Saturday night at the National Naval Medical Center just outside Washington, D.C.

Matsui juggled political and policy roles during more than a quarter-century in Con-

gress. He was the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for the past two years, in charge of the unsuccessful effort to regain control of the House.

He also was the third-ranking Democrat on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, where he was his party's point man on Social Security legislation.

In a statement announcing Matsui's death, his office disclosed that the congressman was diagnosed several months ago with Myo Dystrophic, a rare stem cell disorder that reduces the body's ability to produce red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets.

Victims of the disease are left more susceptible to other illnesses, with less ability to fight them off. The statement said Matsui entered the hospital on Dec. 24 with pneumonia.

Matsui was recently re-elected with ease to his 14th in Congress. His death will trigger a special election for his next representative in his Sacramento-area district.

Matsui was born in 1941. The following year, his family was among the Japanese-Americans forced into internment camps during World War II. Decades later, he helped pass legislation that apologized for the internment policy and provided compensation for the survivors.



# Heating oil prices create firewood demand

BY CLARKE CANFIELD  
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Firewood sales — and prices — are rising in New England and parts of the West this winter, fueled by increasingly expensive oil and kerosene.

The strong demand has pushed prices to their highest levels ever, said Peter Lammert, a forester with the Maine Forest Service.

Seasoned firewood is now selling for roughly \$180 to \$240 a cord compared to between \$140 and \$160 a year ago in Maine, he said.

Similar prices are being reported in New Hampshire and Vermont.

Ray Colton of Pittsfield, Vt., said his company has sold more than 4,000 cords this season, about 1,000 more than last year. "We're selling as fast as we produce," he said.

A cord is a stack of firewood 4 feet wide, 8 feet long and 4 feet high.

Oil prices are hovering at close to \$2 a gallon in Maine, up more than 30 percent from a year ago. At \$2.18 a gallon, kerosene is 56

cents more than last year. And propane averages \$2.06 a gallon, up 43 cents from a year ago.

Prices are also up out West, including in Colorado, where local hardwood begins at \$180 per cord and imported oak costs \$300.

Even with firewood prices heating up, Paul Reed Jr., owner of Reed's Firewood in Durham, said consumers can still save hundreds of dollars in the winter by burning wood.

"Firewood at \$180 a cord is still a deal compared to what it costs to heat your home with oil," he said.



Paul Reed Sr. moves firewood at Reed's Firewood in Durham, Maine. With heating oil prices hovering around \$2 a gallon, firewood demand is up across Maine and northern New England this season.

## Nobel winner Axelrod dies at 92; studied nerve cell communication

The Associated Press

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Julius Axelrod, a National Institutes of Health neuroscientist who won the Nobel Prize for his work on how nerve cells communicate and affect behavior, has died. He was 92.

He died Dec. 29 at his home in Rockville.

Axelrod shared the 1970 Nobel in physiology or medicine with two other scientists, Bernard Katz of Britain and Ulf von Euler of Sweden. Their work on chemi-

cals released by nerve endings formed the foundation for a host of new antidepressants in the class of Prozac and Zoloft.

Earlier in his career, Axelrod helped identify acetaminophen in the pain reliever Tylenol.



Axelrod

"His contributions to pharmacology, especially in terms of how drugs act in the brain, were extraordinary," Dr. Solomon Snyder, director of the neuroscience department at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, told The New York Times.

The son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, Axelrod was born May 30, 1912, in New York. He graduated from City College of New York in 1933 and hoped to become a doctor but was rejected by several medical schools because of strict quotas on Jews.

He earned a master's degree in chemistry from New York University in 1941 and a doctorate in pharmacology from George Washington University in 1955.

Axelrod worked with drug researcher Bernard Brodie at Goldwater Memorial Hospital in New York in the 1940s, studying pain medicines. The two found that acetaminophen was the active ingredient in a then-common headache treatment.

In 1955, Axelrod joined the NIH as head of the pharmacology division, where he worked on neu-

rotransmitters, chemicals passed between nerve cells in the brain. At the time, scientists believed that neurotransmitters were broken down after being released by nerve cells.

But Axelrod discovered some were pumped back into the cells that produced them.

Blocking the return of those neurotransmitters became the basis for a generation of antidepressant drugs.

Axelrod retired from NIH in 1984 but continued to work on projects at the research center.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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# Hangover cures only shed light on bad habits

BY TRACY WHEELER

Akron Beacon Journal

AKRON, Ohio — They promise all the libation revelry of New Year's Eve, but "No headache, no nausea, no regrets." They can "ensure that a wonderful night doesn't lead to the worst of mornings." Or to put it somewhat clinically, they'll "reduce the harmful and toxic byproducts of alcohol consumption."

They are over-the-counter hangover fixes — with clever names like RU-24, Chaser and Sober-X — and they're everywhere these days, at drugstore checkout counters, in prime-time TV commercials and, of course, on the Internet.

And guess what? They don't work. Even if they did, Dr. Victoria Sanelli suggests that you may want to consider what it says about you and your drinking habits if you're willing to plow down \$6.79 to \$29.95 in an attempt to cure a problem — an avoidable one, at that — before it even appears.

"If you have to look for a hangover cure, dude, alcohol is obviously way too important for you," said Sanelli, associate medi-

**"If you have to look for a hangover cure, dude, alcohol is obviously way too important for you."**

Associate medical director, Ignatia Hall Acute Alcohol & Drug Treatment Center

cal director of the Ignatia Hall Acute Alcohol & Drug Treatment Center.

Taking a pill to prevent a hangover is a pretty good clue that you're somewhat concerned about protecting your drinking than protecting yourself.

At its most basic, a hangover is a toxic reaction to drinking too much alcohol. (Think about it: you can't spell "intoxication" without "toxic.") Specifically, hangovers are brought on by a combination of inflammation and acetaldehyde, a "nasty little chemical that changes the pathways in your body," said Akron General Medical Center's Tim Brown, a pharmacotherapy specialist.

"It's a chemical your body doesn't want. It basically makes you sick to your stomach." It's the acetaldehyde that the hang-

over cures are latching onto, claiming to change the body's alcohol metabolism and blocking formation of the chemical.

"Here's the catch — even though acetaldehyde plays a role, there's no evidence that changing the way the body metabolizes alcohol or anything like this will do anything to prevent the hangover," Brown said.

Acetaldehyde is just one factor. Dehydration, mineral loss and inflammation also play key roles. Not to mention the fact that a good many hangovers can also be exacerbated by the mental stress of having done something the night before that you now regret.

In fact, it's likely these products could make hangovers worse.

"There's a danger, I think, that it encour-

ages heavier drinking," Sanelli said. "People can get careless because they think they have a hangover cure, so they can drink as much as they want."

Of all the supposed cures floating around, Brown said one actually has some proof behind it, in the form of a randomized, controlled study. It's called HFP Hangover Prevention Formula and contains prickly pear. Half of those involved in the study reported that the supplement helped ward off dry mouth and nausea, but not headaches, weakness or tiredness.

The others rely on vitamins, sugars, herbs or activated charcoal, which hospitals use to treat poisonings.

"The majority of them don't work," Brown said.

If you really want to avoid a hangover, Sanelli suggests drinking slowly and in moderation, making sure you eat, alternating glasses of water or soda or coffee to decrease the amount of alcohol you'll drink, and making sure to set a time to cut yourself off.

Of course, she said, there's one more foolproof way to skip the alcohol-related, morning-after ailments: Don't drink.



Carmen Charles, left, a member of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and tribal chairwoman Frances G. Charles, second from left, view a site covered with a white blanket Dec. 16, where ancient human remains were found on the site in Port Angeles, Wash.

## Tribal members act to soothe spirits of ancestors unearthed in Washington

BY MELANATHA MITCHELL

The Associated Press

PORT ANGELES, Wash. — Generations of Klallam Indians for years have been told of an ancestral village where their people danced in longhouses and fished off the coast of the Olympic Peninsula. What they hadn't known was that their ancestors' remains lay in scattered pieces, devastated by decades of industrial development, discovered only recently during the state's project to replace the aging Hood Canal floating bridge.

As state officials face the difficult and expensive task of finding a new site to build the bridge piers and anchors, a young generation of Klallam is left to care for hundreds of remains already un-

earthed and lay to rest the disturbed spirits of their ancestors.

State archaeologists have said the site is the largest archaeological find in the region — the result of a bittersweet and sometimes painful process.

"There's a lot of good coming out of this. It just shouldn't have happened this way," said 23-year-old Carmen Charles, a member of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe who has worked at the site since a month after a state employee found the first human bone fragment in August 2003.

Hundreds of Klallam have since visited the 22.5-acre waterfront site, offering blessings and performing cleansing ceremonies to ease the restive spirits of their forebears.

The Klallam, like other Ameri-

can Indians, believe disturbing sacred grounds displeases the spirits, which can lead to injury, or even death, among the living.

To protect themselves and their families, they swipe rusty-red ochre on their cheeks before entering the grounds. When they leave, they wash their hands, arms and faces in bitingly cold snowberry tea.

Working alongside state archaeologists, tribal members between the ages of 17 and 62 have spent the past 16 months delicately scraping away layers of dirt and mud, unsure and unsure what to expect.

The state Transportation Department owns the site, and officials want to meet with the tribe to decide how it will be used. Talks are on hold as both sides use the holidays to take a break from the issue.

## Film about guns in NYC earns spot at Sundance

BY TOM HAYS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It began as a small documentary by two teenage filmmakers about guns, death and grief at a tough Brooklyn housing project.

Then, in the midst of production, one of the teens saw his best friend die in a freak shooting on the project's rooftop.

The shooter was a police officer.

The episode gave the film a dramatic boost that has propelled two kids from the projects to the big time: "Bullets in the Hood: A Bed-Stuy Story" will compete next month at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival in the short documentary category.

"We thought it was something we'd show to our friends and family," Danny Howard, 19, the cameraman and co-director, said in an interview. "We never even dreamed about Sundance."

Sponsored by the nonprofit media company, Downtown Community Television Center, Howard and his partner, on-camera narrator Terrence Fisher, 18, set out to capture a self-destructive gun culture that had claimed the lives of eight of Fisher's friends.

Residents "are dying over something that's real stupid," Fisher says by way of introduction. "A lot of people have guns for no reason."

But the film's focus shifts after Fisher becomes a witness in the fatal shooting in March of 19-year-old Timothy Stansbury at the Louis Armstrong Houses in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section. He declined to be interviewed for this story because of a pending federal review and a lawsuit against the city, filed by the Stansbury family.

But Fisher's raw opinions and comments are on full display in the film, which chronicles how the community copes with the shooting.

"They shot my boy Timothy Stansbury for nothing," he says to the camera in disgust.

The shooting occurred on an otherwise quiet night in January. Officer Richard A. Neri and his partner were patrolling building rooftops. Stansbury, Fisher and another friend decided to use a roof as a shortcut to another building.

Neri's partner pulled open a rooftop door so that Neri, his gun drawn, could peer inside. Any lurking drug suspects. Stansbury startled the officers by appearing at the door and moving toward Neri, who responded with one shot.

In the film, Fisher recalls tumbling down a stairway with his mortally wounded friend.

"I just heard a shot and saw blood," he says the morning after the shooting. "I didn't know who got shot. ... I was checking myself."

What follows are scenes that have become ritual in the city following questionable police shooting: Neri, a police officer, is seen mourning the death with candlelight vigils, television crews and reporters competing for sound bites from a grieving mother and angry protesters demanding the officer be brought to justice.

In another scene, a group of women mock Mayor Michael Bloomberg for visiting Stansbury's family. The film later cuts to local newscast footage of Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly telling the reporters that, based on early evidence, "There appears to be no justification for the shooting." More outrage flows when a jury decides not to indict Neri.

Nearly a year later, Fisher and Howard will trade the inner-city grit for the red carpet at the sort glitz of Park City, Utah, where their 22-minute short will open for feature movies at the Jan. 20-30 Sundance festival. It was selected for screening out of nearly 4,000 submissions.

## IN THE WORLD

## U.S. Helicopters rush help to tsunami survivors

## USS Abraham Lincoln crew finds total devastation along Sumatra's coastline

BY DENIS D. GRAY  
The Associated Press

KUEDE TEUNOM, Indonesia — Chas Dearie threw up his hands in a gesture of hopelessness. He had just flipped a few bottles of drinking water from a U.S. Navy helicopter to villagers plodding along a tattered ribbon of road flanked by total devastation. They raised their hands in thanks, but the water, biscuits and other aid rushed to tsunami-shattered communities along the Indonesian coast Sunday were still just droplets in an ocean of need.

"There's nothing left to speak of," said Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Vance, of San Diego, Calif., among more than 30 helicopter pilots flying from the USS Abraham Lincoln to the northern tip of Sumatra, where a tsunami generated Dec. 26 by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake took its greatest toll. The Lincoln and four other U.S. Navy vessels, with more than 6,500 sailors and Marines, Saturday moved into position off Indonesia to begin one of the largest U.S. military operations in Asia since the Vietnam War.

From a low-flying helicopter, the scene for some 70 miles down the shoreline from the city of Banda Aceh was that of a veritable skeleton coast. Bodies were still floating at sea a week after the tragedy, which killed more than 80,000 in Indonesia and an esti-

mated 150,000 throughout southern Asia and Africa.

Whole communities had been obliterated in moments. Bleached concrete pads was all that was left of most substantial structures. Nothing was visible of thinner village houses except for scattered corrugated iron roofs crumpled up like paper.

"You can't really explain. There used to be towns and cities there. The people once had homes, lives, and now there is nothing. No homes, no food, no water," said Scott Wickland, of Cumberland, Wis. The petty officer first class, trained in combat search and rescue, said the food they handed out to survivors would last a night, and they would have to return again and again.

When a helicopter landed at Kuede Teunom, a town some 63 miles southeast of Banda Aceh, several hundred people waited anxiously for relays of Indonesian soldiers to quickly unload crates of biscuits and water. Rifles slung across their backs, the troops had moved in to prevent hungry mobs from rushing the helicopters as they had done Saturday.

About 8,000 people, from a population of 18,000, were killed in the town, Indonesian journalist Alfin Hanzah estimated.

No building in Kuede Teunom, flanked by a broad and now lifeless coastal plain, survived the tsunami intact.



Indonesian soldiers help unload food and water Sunday from a U.S. Navy helicopter in Kuede Teunom on the eastern coast of Indonesia's Aceh province.

A few minutes later, the helicopter lifted off as another descended from the sky.

Dearie, a petty officer second class from Sulphur, La., looked out from the chopper's open door for the knots of villagers hugging the only stretches of low-lying dry land, the largely destroyed road hugging the coastline. Others were huddled together on hillsides behind the coastal plain, some having received bright orange and blue tents from international agencies. Others appeared to be living in the open.

On the return flight to Banda Aceh, the helicopter came down several times, Dearie dropping off the last of his water bottles for small groups of people running toward him.

Another helicopter evacuated five men stranded on a stretch of highway surrounded by fields of water. Gaunt and delirious, they had been walking for five days and were still some 40 miles from the nearest help, said Lt. John Cauthen of San Mateo, Calif. Back at Banda Aceh, a medical team told the pilots that the group probably would not have lived through another day.

## Aid effort gains momentum as search for missing slows

BY LELY T. DJUHARI  
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Thousands of people on the ruined west coast of Sumatra island remain missing after last week's tsunami and rescue work-

ers Sunday turned their full attention to getting aid to the living. A week after the world's worst earthquake in four decades pushed the Indian Ocean on shore, U.S. forces pressed ahead with one of their biggest-ever relief missions with the death toll likely to hit 150,000.

An Indonesian fisherman was found trapped under his beached boat and severely dehydrated Sunday, officials said. The 24-year-old man, identified as Tengku Sofyan, was rushed to a hospital in Banda Aceh, where doctors gave him intravenous fluids. He could barely speak and suffered cuts, doctors said.

Relatives of the missing gave agonizing descriptions of their loved ones on television Sunday,

clinging to hopes the missing had not been fatally crushed by rubble or taken by the sea.

Officials were pessimistic. "There is very little chance of finding survivors after seven days," Lamsar Sipahutar, the head of Indonesia's search team, said before the fisherman was found. "We are about to stop the search-and-rescue operations. If you survived the earthquake, you probably were killed by tsunami."

Around the devastated Indian Ocean rim, \$2 billion in promised international aid began to reach survivors. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Florida Gov. Jeb Bush will arrive in coming days.

This is "one of the most mas-

sive relief efforts ever mounted in response to one of the worst catastrophes the world has ever seen," Powell said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"This trip is to figure out the best possible way logistically for the United States to offer help and also show the heart of our country in this really tragic time," Gov. Bush said in Miami before departing.

Four Indonesian navy frigates loaded with supplies arrived off the coast of the fishing village of Meulaboh, one of Aceh's worst-hit spots. About half the town of 40,000 was destroyed. An Associated Press reporter who visited saw residents stepping over dead bodies to scrounge for food and scavange pots and pans from destroyed homes.

In India's devastated Andaman and Nicobar Islands, some villagers said they still had not received any outside help, despite government claims that aid was reaching all affected sites.

Officials said most of the island's jetties had been destroyed, making it difficult for boats to dock. The first aid-laden Indian naval supply ship arrived in the archipelago Sunday.

On Bambooflat island, a short ferry ride from the island's capital Port Blair, about 2,000 families desperate for food and shelter waited for help, and some grew angry. Late Saturday and early Sunday, half a dozen aftershocks, the biggest a magnitude 5.9, jolted the islands, where nearly 4,000 people were missing.

India was insisting there still was hope for survivors, though the search was essentially over in Tamil Nadu state, which bore the brunt of the country's sea surge. "About 500 to 600 people are on our missing list, but in due course we will be declaring them dead," said Veera Shanmuga Muni, a top administrator of Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam district. India's official death toll topped 9,000 Saturday.

In Sri Lanka, where almost 30,000 died, flood waters that had added to survivors' misery receded. About 2,000 people were evacuated from refugee camps near the island nation's devastated eastern coast Saturday after days of steady rain triggered flash floods. They returned to government-run centers, and there were no reports of casualties, police said.



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## OPINION

## Democrats knocked, didn't wait for answer

BY MICHAEL GECAN

Thirty-two years ago, in the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University in downtown Chicago, I believe I witnessed the destruction — actually, the self-destruction — of the Democratic Party. I was attending a rally for George McGovern. The place was packed. And the stage held scores of Chicago police — red-faced aldermen and county committeemen in dark suits.

There were the usual speeches from the usual Democratic functionaries, but the warm-up act for the candidate was not some tongue-tied Polish pol from the Northwest Side. Onto the stage strode an actor everyone knew — Warren Beatty. He was a vision of handsome, tanned, long-haired and dressed almost entirely in black leather. He dramatically discarded his floor-length leather coat, only to reveal leather pants and shirt. The crowd inhaled, gasped and burst into applause. The faces of the police onstage went white with shock or red with rage.

Beatty is now a married man, with a family, but California, but the Democratic Party is still the same star-struck, celebrity-driven, immature mess that it was in 1972. Instead of Warren Beatty, this year's headlines were Bon Jovi, Bruce Springsteen and the inimitable Michael Moore.

Incredibly, on the night before the election, in the crucial swing state of Ohio, in the increasingly important city of Cleveland, John Kerry appeared at a rock concert headlined by The Boss. If any of those jowly pols who were on that auditorium stage in Chicago are still alive, they must have howled with disbelief and expired. If buried, they were rolling in their graves. There is nothing

dumber than bringing all of your troops out of the trenches at the very decisive point of a major battle. While Kerry was playing McClellan, the distracted, cautious and self-involved Union general who led from the rear, Karl Rove was Stonewall Jackson, using maximum force with maximum mobility for maximum effect at all the key points and moments of the campaign.

The other trend I witnessed, in 1972 and beyond, was the development of a style of organizing, practiced by several self-called progressive groups, that involved door-to-door canvassing, an almost scientific method of person-by-person fund raising, a set of pre-packaged issues that were primarily meant to excite people to sign petitions and donate dollars, and a talent for attracting media attention. Its central dynamic was to recruit scores of young people, who would go door to door, distributing information and raising money.

That is exactly the dynamic used by most of the heavily funded Democratic get-out-the-vote efforts.

Scores of thousands of people, many of them paid (how else do you squander \$200 million?), knocked on millions of doors during this campaign. The Democratic-leaning canvassers left information, repeated a canned sales pitch and moved along. They did not engage the people in real conversation. They did not listen to their concerns. They did not recruit real volunteers to work on their own block. They did not take the time to find out which pastor or rabbi was a leader in an area and which congregations people attended. They were progressive salespeople with a high quota of contacts and no time to relate, who disappeared from



people's towns and lives the very moment, on election night, that they learned the sale had not been made.

It was as if they had never been there. And in a way, they never were. These two tendencies — celebrity worship and quick-hit canvassing — betray the central problem at the heart of the Democratic Party's political culture. The party has no time or patience for the complex work needed to listen to Americans, to understand their range of views and positions, and to engage them on their deepest interests.

Even worse, many in the hierarchy of the Democratic Party have contempt for ordi-

nary Americans — for their red faces and moderate churches and mixed, often moderate, views.

No amount of money can solve this problem. No think tank has the answers. No rising senatorial star can save the day. And no Hollywood hero can substitute for the fundamental changes the Democrats need to make to contend for the large, pivotal middle of the American electorate.

Michael Gecan is with the Industrial Areas Foundation, an umbrella group comprising 55 organizations in the States and three overseas that work for social change. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

## Tale of Pale Male inspires those of restless spirit

Amid all the bad news from around the world, one happy item originates from Manhattan: the saga of Pale Male, the bird-king of Central Park. The story of his temporary defeat and ultimate triumph reminds us that the call of the wild is heard even in the most ordered of urban settings.

James Pinkerton



Pale Male, of course, is the red-tailed hawk who has nested atop Fifth Avenue since 1993. And because New York City has more photographers and writers per square block than any other city in the world, the big bird became a natural magnet for documentarians and other chroniclers. So the co-op board at 927 Fifth Avenue should have anticipated the storm of protest that followed its Dec. 7 decision to remove Pale Male's nest from its building. Some of the pro-Pale Male protests came from residents, notably Mary Tyler Moore. But most of the pressure came from the flock of bird-watchers and other outdoorsy activists, who sold the media on the story line that the nest-busters were a bunch of grinchers. The protests worked: On Dec. 23, workers restored Pale Male's nesting place. So why did the Pale Male story click with the public? Why did his eviction become a celebrity cause, when serious environmental problems go mostly unchecked? The red-tailed hawk, after all, is not an endangered species.

One answer, of course, is "biophilia." That's the term coined by Harvard entomologist E.O. Wilson to describe the innate

human yearning to have some direct contact with nature, even if it's nothing more than a plant in a window box — or a glimpse of a neighboring hawk. To biophiliacs, a bird in the park is worth more than millions of birds in faraway bushes.

A second answer is more political. Ordinary Americans have little control over events around the world, but they do feel a communal ownership over public spaces in their own hometown. And that belief in a collective stake applies even to the megabucks residences along Fifth Avenue. Yes, those buildings are private property, but much of their value derives from their views of Central Park, and that's public property. So those who benefit from the green vistas are now on notice that they have an obligation to maintain the ongoing circle-of-life nature show that exists in the park. And so what if



PALEMALE.COM

Pale Male watches mate Lola land on their 12th-floor New York "love nest" last year.

the millionaires and billionaires at 927 have to deal with the rat and pigeon carcasses that fall from Pale Male's nest? They'll have to count the cleanup as just another cost of living along America's poshest avenue.

A third answer comes from sociology. To modern mankind, there's something deeply

appealing about the juxtaposition of the organic and inorganic. The idea that a feathered friend could find a home amid stone and steel — well, that's heartening.

Moreover, there's what might be called the "Batman-Spidekman Syndrome." Part of the fascination with those superhero characters is the sense that they're misunderstood by their fellow humans, and so must retreat into their animal-like disguises. When we see these comic-book avatars in their stereotypical pose, they are gazing out over the cold city from atop a skyscraper.

What human can't relate to such isolation and alienation? So Pale Male is the perfect urban companion. Aloof and alone as he soars overhead, he is forever roaming, a symbol for all those who feel hungry in their heart and restless in their spirit.

James Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



# Hope fades of identifying foreigners

BY KEITH B. RICHBURG

The Washington Post

**BANGKOK** — With thousands of decomposing bodies piled up in a Buddhist temple that has been converted to a temporary morgue on Thailand's southern coast, hope was fading Saturday that any of more than 6,000 foreigners still missing after last Sunday's tsunami would be found alive.

The hardest-hit area in Thailand now appears to be Khao Lak, north of Phuket island, a popular spot for families with children, particularly Scandinavians. Another 1,600 bodies, most believed to be foreigners, were collected and brought Saturday from Khao Lak to the temple at Takua Pa. Many were so bloated and disfigured that identification would be nearly impossible, said witnesses.

Thai authorities said Saturday that 4,812 people, including 2,230 foreigners, were confirmed dead in Thailand. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said that toll could reach 10,000.

In a globalized tragedy that struck tourists as well as residents, the hardest-hit country outside the tsunami zone was Sweden. The official count of Swedes missing in Thailand stood at 3,559, mostly at Khao Lak and Ko Phi Phi, a small island that has been popular with younger people.

Only 20 Swedes were found in hospitals, 60 others were confirmed dead and 8,000 others were evacuated to Sweden.

"Khao Lak is mostly for families, so at Khao Lak there are a lot of children missing," said Jane Axelsson, 39, a Swedish volunteer helping the consulate in Phuket deal with the influx of anxious relatives searching for loved ones. At Khao Lak, many of the missing would have been swept off the beach during morning swims, she said.

"On Phi Phi, the culture is to stay awake long into the night, and sleep late in the morning," she said. There, teenagers and young people would have succumbed to the waves while still in bed, she said.

Members of the Swedish Church in Thailand have visited all the hospitals and reported that no hospitalized Swedes were left unidentified. That dashed hopes of incoming family members who clung to the belief that relatives might have been injured but were unconscious or unable to call home.

The Swedish government Saturday asked all family members missing a relative to bring identity documents of the relatives and to bring recent photographs. Final identification will likely rely on DNA testing, which officials warned could take months. "Not all of them

will be identified," Axelsson said. "That is the reality we have to face today."

Thai students have arrived in the stricken areas to assist incoming relatives, mostly by helping with translation. Some of the students have been wearing large name cards showing which languages besides Thai they speak.

But at the Phuket city hall Saturday, Thai officials told foreigners flocking to the resort that it was time to give up searching for their loved ones and consider leaving, according to the Reuters news agency. A Thai Tourist Police lieutenant used a megaphone to tell relatives: "Please tell your friends not to come. ... The bodies are no longer identifiable."

Axelsson and others have called this Sweden's biggest tragedy since World War II. Already, there is political fallout in the Scandinavian country, as newspaper columnists and some politicians accuse the government of moving too slowly in the first hours of the disaster.

Laila Freivalds, the Swedish foreign minister, visited Thailand's devastated beach resort areas and later conceded that the government had initially failed to grasp the scope of the calamity. "We ought to have taken much more forceful action on Sunday, instead of waiting," she said at a news conference. "Some of the completely wiped-out tourist resorts are those where many Swedes were staying."

## Gang rape of teen

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** — A teenager who escaped death but was left orphaned and homeless by the Asian tsunami met yet one more agony: gang rape, one of several cases of child abuse being investigated in the disaster zone, an official said Saturday.

Of all the human tragedies emerging from the worst natural disaster in decades, sexual abuse of vulnerable children in refugee camps must be among the most shocking.

But experts say it's not uncommon in times of conflict and trauma.

"When there is displacement and chaos, the possibility of this type of behavior is higher," Harendra D Silva, head of the National Child Protection Authority, said Saturday.

## Prisoners surrender

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** — About 100 prisoners who were released from their Sri Lanka cells to escape the tsunami have voluntarily surrendered to authorities. Some others remain at large, prison authorities said Sunday.

About 100 other prisoners were taken from Matara prison to another lock-up before the waves hit.

"If the doors weren't open for them, they would have all died," said Rumi Marzook, warden of Sri Lanka's Matara prison, 80 miles south of Colombo.

## Arrest suspect in hoax

**LONDON** — British police said Sunday they have arrested a suspect in connection with hoax e-mails that informed people their missing loved ones died in the Asian tsunami.

The messages, which claimed to be from the British government, were sent to friends and relatives who placed appeals for information on the Sky News TV Web site.

London's Metropolitan Police said officers investigating the case had arrested a 40-year-old man Friday in Lincolnshire county in central England and seized computer equipment.

## Lesson helped save lives

**LONDON** — A British schoolgirl who recognized the signs of a coming tsunami thanks to a recent geography lesson saved her family and some 100 other tourists at a Thai beach, a British newspaper reported.

Tilly Smith, 10, realized they were in danger when she saw the tide suddenly rush out — an indication earthquake-driven tidal waves are only minutes away — and told her mother, The Sun said in its Saturday edition.

She explained that she had studied tsunami only two weeks before at her school in Oxtshott, just south of London. Her parents, Penny and Colin Smith, warned nearby vacationers and staff at their hotel in Phuket, and the hotel swiftly evacuated Maikha beach, minutes before the devastating waves struck, the newspaper said.

The Sun reported that the beach was one of only a few in Phuket where no one was killed or seriously hurt.

"I was on the beach and the water started to go funny," Tilly was quoted as telling The Sun.

From The Associated Press

## Elephants help to clear tsunami debris in Thailand



AP photos

**Elephants clear debris near Bang Nieng beach in Khao Lak, Thailand, on Sunday. Elephants were part of a huge effort to clean Thailand's southern coastline as the country's death toll climbed close to 5,000 a week after the tsunami disaster.**

## U.N. warns infectious diseases may claim more lives

BY EMMA ROSS

The Associated Press

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** — The key to averting a health catastrophe emerging from the tsunami ruins will be basic hygiene — clean water and toilets — medical officials said, reporting no major disease outbreaks but warning the worst may be just around the corner.

Dirty drinking and washing water combined with lack of proper sewage disposal, they said, are a recipe for explosive outbreaks of life-threatening diarrhea diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery, as well as some forms of hepatitis.

"These are the sort of diseases that could occur any time now," Dr. Michelle Gayer, an infectious diseases specialist at the World Health Organization, said Saturday.

More than 123,000 people are reported dead and officials say the toll is likely to climb as more bodies are found. Most of the victims were killed by the massive tsunami that smashed coastlines after a magnitude 9.0 earthquake last Sunday off Indonesia's coast.

However, the United Nations has warned that disease may claim almost as many lives.

Hospitals left standing after Asia's killer tsunami haven't been swamped by severely injured survivors. Most casualties either have light wounds or are dead.

But sources of clean water and sanitary toilets have been largely wiped out in many areas, where the devastation of the tsunami in Southeast Asia.

The waterborne illnesses threatening the region are caused by bugs in traces of feces,

which can easily end up in the mouth not only when people don't wash their hands before eating or preparing food, but also if plates and utensils are washed in sewage-contaminated water.

A common way that such diseases get spread is by fetching buckets of water from rivers and lakes where people bathe and defecate.

According to the World Food Program, there have been no reports of starvation in tsunami-stricken areas, and experts say they don't expect a threat of starvation. There are food shortages in many areas, but not critical shortages.

However, a nutrition problem is emerging in the worst hit location at the northern tip of Sumatra, the Indonesian island nearest to the epicenter of the quake, said Dr. Georg Petersen, the WHO representative in Indonesia.



A copy of Turkey's new 20 lira banknote, part of the country's new currency, will knock six zeros off of the lira. One million lira will become one new Turkish lira, under the new currency, which became legal tender on Jan. 1. The country hopes the new currency will ease foreign investment and curb inflation.

## Turkey launches new lira

Country drops 6 zeros from currency to fight inflation

BY JAMES C. HELICKE

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkey launched a new currency Saturday by dropping six zeros from the old one, in a sign of progress in its decades-long struggle with inflation. But getting rid of old habits in a country where even a loaf of bread costs hundreds of thousands isn't likely to be easy.

No major problems were reported after the new Turkish lira went into circulation on Jan. 1, although credit cards were unusable for about five minutes while the transition was made.

Bank machines were also distributing the new currency, but few on the street appeared to have made the switch. The old notes will remain usable for a year, but the Central Bank predicts they will largely be out of circulation by the end of February.

Harun Fakcioglu, who works at a shop selling nuts and cigarettes in Istanbul, said customers hadn't started using the new money.

"That'll be 1.5 million," he said to a man who bought a bottle of cola. "People won't spend

the new money right away. At first they'll be curious. But at least managing the books will be easier without the zeros."

Under the new system, 1,000,000 Turkish lira, about 75 cents, is equivalent to 1 new Turkish lira — the price of about three loaves of bread. The jackpot in Turkey's New Year lottery was announced Friday night in old lira — 15 trillion equivalent to \$11.1 million.

The old currency boasted the world's largest bank note — 200,000,000 lira, worth only about \$15.

The move comes as the government has made important progress in reducing inflation, which ran in the double digits for decades.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan withdrew the new currency from a bank machine early Saturday and said he was happy Turkey had been rescued from "the shame" of the old system.

He later went grocery shopping with the new money, and received change that included kuras, the Turkish equivalent of a cent, which had been dropped years ago because of inflation.

Turkey is attempting to stabi-

lize its economy as it pushes for membership in the European Union, which agreed last month to open membership talks with the mainly Muslim country. Turkey has implemented a \$16 billion International Monetary Fund-backed austerity plan designed to help its economy recover from a crisis in 2001.

The country hopes the new currency will ease foreign investment.

Introducing a new currency has been a Turkish goal for years, but the government was not able to move forward now that inflation is projected to run about 8 percent this year.

But there are challenges ahead. Turkish governments must avoid the type of excessive spending that was partly responsible for the inflation.

Erdogan spent Saturday quizzing citizens to make sure they understood the value of the new currency, as he handed them 5 new Turkish lira bills.

"How much is this worth in old lira?" he asked one woman.

Television channels and newspapers also explained the conversion to the public.

"The easiest formula," explained the mass-circulation Hurriyet, "is say 'new Turkish lira' instead of 'million.'"

Chery Automobile Co., owned by the Chinese government, has signed a deal with the privately held Visionary Vehicles LLC of New York to sell the cars in the United States, said Malcolm Bricklin, Visionary's chief executive.

It would be the first deal to import Chinese-made cars to the United States, the Detroit News said in its Sunday editions.

Chery is China's eighth-largest automaker. Founded in 1997, it sold about 90,000 vehicles in China in 2004.

From The Associated Press

## Abbas vies for rebel support at Gaza rally

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK

The Associated Press

DEIR EL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas told hundreds of armed militants at a campaign rally in Gaza on Sunday that he would never abandon them, but would fight to protect them from Israeli raids.

In his campaign to replace Yasser Arafat, Abbas is courting support from gunmen considered heroes by many Palestinians and terrorists by most Israelis.

Israeli troops, meanwhile, concluded a three-day operation in southern Gaza early Sunday just as they began one in northern Gaza.

Abbas says it was targeting militants who fire homemade rockets and mortar rounds at Israeli towns and settlements. Three Israeli civilians were wounded in such attacks Sunday, one seriously.

In southern Gaza, Israel pulled out of Khan Younis, leaving at least 13 armed Palestinians dead, the army said. Palestinian security officials put the number of dead at 11 and said nine of them were armed.

Soon after, about 40 Israeli tanks and armored cars rumbled into agricultural areas outside the northern Gaza towns of Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia and Jabalya.

The raids came as candidates campaigned in Gaza ahead of the Jan. 9 elections for a new president and parliament.

Though Abbas is the overwhelming favorite, he lacks

Arafat's charisma and street credentials. Even if he posts a strong victory, he will need to consolidate his support among the population and get militants to back his new government.

Israel has demanded a crackdown on violent groups, which Abbas has repeatedly rejected.

In an interview Saturday, Abbas said Palestinians are beholden to the gunmen for their resistance against the Israeli occupation and have a duty to protect them from reprisals.

At a rally Sunday in a basketball stadium in the central Gaza town of Deir el-Balah, Abbas pledged before thousands of Palestinians, including hundreds of gunmen, not to abandon them.

Abbas also promised to follow in Arafat's footsteps, saying he would not rest until an independent Palestinian state is established. Israeli settlements are dismantled and Palestinian refugees get their rights.

The principles of Yasser Arafat, and his sayings, are his will and it is our duty to implement it," Abbas said.

Mahmud al-Shehadeh, head of the Jenin Martyrs' Brigades, a small, local militant group, embraced Abbas and cheered him.

After Abbas left, the gunmen began shooting in the air.



Abbas

## Elections the main event in Middle East this year

BY SARAH EL DEEB

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — From Baghdad to Cairo, from Riyadh to the Gaza Strip, election is the mantra for 2005.

Palestinians, Egyptians, even Saudis will be going to the polls, giving them a new sense of power in a region largely run by monarchs and dictators even in places where parliament exists.

But some say it doesn't necessarily signal real change.

"Elections is a magic word. You have got the magic word but you don't have magic without delivering," said Saudi analyst Mai Yamani, with the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. "I don't think there is any significance unless there is genuine intent to reform, share of power, minimize the power of the ruling elite, end corruption."

Fahmi Howaidi, a liberal Islamic thinker in Egypt, says the Jan. 9 Palestinian election is the only one where there are real political players and the possibility of change.

In Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, he's just "painting the house," he said. "The results are known and there will be no fundamental

change ... a soap opera, a response to American pressure, not a result of popular demand or a strong political action. There is no political struggle."

After toppling Saddam Hussein in 2003, the United States promised Iraq would become a model for Arab democracy, and pressured regimes in the region to yield to some local demands for change. Reform, Washington holds, will make Muslim and Arab societies less fertile ground for extremists.

But many question whether elections under occupation (Iraq, West Bank and Gaza Strip) or under foreign pressure (Saudi Arabia) can really prompt change in the region.

Iraqis are scheduled to vote Jan. 30 in the first free elections since the overthrow of their monarchy in 1958, choosing a legislative assembly to draft a constitution.

The Palestinians are voting for a successor to the late Yasser Arafat, who controlled Palestinian politics for more than 40 years.

In the Saudi capital, Riyadh, bloodless messages prepare citizens for the kingdom's first nationwide elections, for municipal councils.

## Croatian elections

ZAGREB, Croatia — Croats were voting Sunday in a presidential race, with 12 candidates — including a popular governing party minister — challenging President Stipe Mesic's re-election bid.

Pro-Western Mesic, 70, came to power in 2000 and was embraced both at home and abroad as the opposite of the autocratic and nationalist President Franjo Tudjman, who had died two months before.

According to opinion polls, Mesic was going into Sunday's race well ahead of his main opponent with between 46 percent and 52 percent of public support and backing from most opposition parties, who credit him with pioneering Croatia's democratic reforms.

## Chinese car imports

DETROIT — A Chinese automaker will begin exporting cars to the United States, with a goal of selling 250,000 in 2007, according to the head of the company that plans to market them.

## A painful fight

**TX DALLAS** — A 21-year-old man bit off a co-worker's ear after an argument over money, police said.

Doctors were able to re-attach Anthony Tran's ear, police said.

Co-worker Ray Leon Jefferson was in Dallas County jail on \$25,000 bail facing an aggravated robbery charge.

The dispute began at a plant of Strategic Partners, a distributor of medical uniforms. According to police, Jefferson asked Tran, 21, for change for a \$100 bill. Tran pulled a \$20 bill and a \$50 bill from his wallet. Jefferson took both bills, the police report said.

After telling Jefferson to return the money, police said, Tran held a pen to Jefferson's stomach. A scuffle ensued, and Tran's ear was bitten off, the police report said.

## Snowboarding death

**CO BRECKENRIDGE** — A 42-year-old snowboarder hit a tree at the Breckenridge ski area and died, the third accidental death this season at a Colorado resort.

The snowboarder, Curt Hubbell of Castle Rock, was wearing a protective helmet and apparently died of internal injuries, according to the coroner. An autopsy was scheduled for this week.

## Now that's old school

**OH CANTON** — High school students taking teacher Marc Biss's multimedia class know their iPods, MP3 players, DVDs and HDTV. Of that, there is no doubt.

But when it comes to microfilm, micrographs and fuzz buttons, you might as well be speaking in POKÉMON.

Not a single one of Biss's 37 multimedia and Web design students at GlenOak High School knew what microfilm or a micrograph were. The majority thought a fuzz button was a vacuum sweeper.

Beta, 8-track tapes and 45 rpm are also lost on them. Junior Sam Bendeckey asked if Beta is a medicine.

Most of the students seemed vaguely familiar with rotary phones because some grandparents still use them.

Fifteen-year-old Neil Harvey thought 45 rpm referred to "how fast a modem runs."

After getting an explanation, Harvey understood.

"You mean those giant black discs? My parents have some in the basement," he said.

## Rare whale watching

**NC WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH** — No need to blubber — those endangered whales weren't beached or tangled, just feeling friendly.

An endangered right whale and her calf swam close to shore here, exciting onlookers and sending officials into the Atlantic to make sure they were safe.

Coast Guard Petty Officer Timothy Johnson said his station was alerted by a woman who spotted the whales with binoculars from her hotel room.

Johnson said a boat was sent out to get a closer look. He viewed the whales at close range and estimated



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ed the mother to be about 50 feet long, with the calf about half her size.

There only about 300 of the critically endangered right whales in the world's oceans. The Coast Guard enforces a strict 500-yard safety zone around them.

## Expensive new crib

**NY WAINSCOTT** — New York's most expensive home is no longer a posh Manhattan high rise — that title now moves to the state's other tract of astronomically priced real estate.

An 18,000-square-foot Hampton retreat has been sold for \$45 million, situated on 25 acres of waterfront property on eastern Long Island. Known as Burnt Point, it has 14 bathrooms and is equipped with geothermal air conditioning.

The buyer was Stewart Rahr, CEO of Kinsey Inc., a pharmaceutical distributor. Neighbors include Steven Spielberg, Calvin Klein and Ronald Perleman.

## Putting travel on ice

**ND GRAND FORKS** — Leave it to Canadians to cheer for ice and snow.

Blowing snow and icy roads stranded hundreds of fans here for the World Junior Hockey Championship.

While Canada was breezing to an 8-1 win over Finland, authorities announced the closure of Canadian Highway 75, which turns into Interstate 29 in North Dakota.



## Just like home

**Kalik, a male polar bear at the San Diego Zoo, tosses a toy snowman. The zoo created a winter scene for the bears by blowing 24 tons of snow into their exhibit.**

ta. Canadians cheered the announcement, nearly as much as their team's victory.

Manitoba Premier Gary Doer was among the nearly 9,600 — mostly Canadians — watching the game. He said he was working to get snowplows back home to clear the roads.

For those stranded, the American Red Cross set up a shelter in the city-owned Alurus Center.

## Lawmakers seem bored

**CA LOS ANGELES** — During public hearings, members of the City Council talk on cell phones, chat among themselves, read mail or wander around the room.

A state appeals court says they should be doing something else: paying attention.

Ruling on a suit brought by the owners of a strip club, the 2nd District Court of Appeal said the 15-member council acts as a quasi-judicial body when it holds hearings and has a legal duty to listen to testimony — or risk violating citizens' due process.

In a hearing involving a strip club owner who was seeking to extend his hours, both sides "had the right to be equally heard, not equally ignored," the court wrote in a decision, ordering a new hearing.

The city has not said whether it will appeal.

At the hearing — which also was Hawaiian Shirt Day for the council — one council member paced, deep in a cell phone conversation; three huddled in conversation; another strolled about the room.

## Missing funds

**MO ST. LOUIS** — The Missouri State Council of the Blind claims the state has diverted \$24 million from a pension fund for the blind over at least a decade, using the money for unauthorized, unrelated expenses.

The council has asked a judge to stop the state Department of Social Services from any more unauthorized spending of the pension fund. The council says the state has used the money for the state budget, tax refunds, building leases and fringe benefits to department employees.

The council, which filed the lawsuit in October, plans to ask a judge to force the state to preserve the fund's \$4.5 million balance for pensioners.

## Gates at Central Park

**NY NEW YORK** — Forklifts were expected to begin moving 15,000 steel bases into place for a public work of art that will allow visitors to Central Park to walk through 7,500 gates hung with panels of saffron-colored fabric.

The temporary work, "The Gates, Central Park, New York, 1979-2005" by artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude, will consist of 16-foot-high gates placed along 23 miles of footpaths, usually at 12-foot intervals. Fabric will be suspended from each gate, falling to 7 feet above the ground.

The artists are paying for the project without sponsorship or donations. Jeanne-Claude said they were hopeful it would cost less than \$21 million, but said they would not know the final amount until the piece is completed.



## Eye on the ball

Emily McDonough, 6, of Bay Village, Ohio, is one of 250 Bay Village

Bee Bouncers who showed off their basketball handling skills before a Harlem Globetrotters game at Gund Arena in Cleveland.



## Feeding time

A flock of gulls vie for bread crumbs tossed by Isaac Moore, of Atlanta, on the beach on Hilton Head Island, S.C.





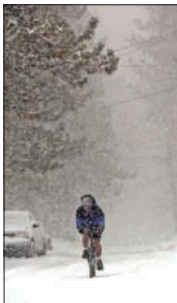
## Someone has to fix that

Workers watch floodwaters pour into a construction site that turned into a sinkhole in the Sun Valley section of Los Angeles.



## Clearing the way

A Carson City snowplow worker clears off a street in Kingsington Park in Carson City, Nev., after a snowstorm came through the area.



## Chilly trek

His bike equipped with studded mountain bike tires, Scott Gomes heads home from work in the snow in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.



## Riding into 2005

Wranglers from Del's Triangle 3 Ranch make their last ride of 2004 through the snowy fields of Clark, Colo.

## Where the rich rough it

**MT** BIG SKY — There's no dry cleaner here, no car wash, nowhere to get a blow dry or a manicure. Looking for a sushi restaurant? You'll have to settle for a buffalo burger at the Corral Bar & Grill.

Big Sky is no Aspen, Colo. But the super rich are flocking here anyway.

The lure: the Yellowstone Club, a private, millionaires-only resort community whose amenities more than make up for Big Sky's lack of a traffic light or a designer boutique. Occupying 22 square miles of mostly wilderness, it's the only private club in America that owns a ski mountain and a world-class golf course.

"Sometimes you have to pay to play," says the Yellowstone Club's Web site, which explains that in exchange for an initiation fee of \$250,000, a required property purchase of \$1 million to \$10 million and annual dues of \$16,000, members enjoy a gated wonderland that offers 40 hiking and biking trails, rivers perfect for fly-fishing and an 18-hole course designed by former pro Tom Weiskopf, who is a member.

## Airline files bankruptcy

**HI** HONOLULU — The parent company of Aloha Airlines has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, less than a month after announcing it would lay off a dozen top managers and freeze 35 open management jobs because of rising fuel costs.

David A. Banmiller, who took over on Nov. 14 as president and chief executive of Honolulu-based Aloha Airgroup Inc., said the intent was to help bring costs in line with competitors who already have filed for bankruptcy protection.

He cited higher operating costs such as fuel prices and the need to renegotiate aircraft leases as the primary factor in the decision to file.

## Coast security upgrade

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — The Coast Guard plans to use dozens of buoys bobbing off U.S. coastlines from Maine to Alaska to extend the reach of a security system that monitors large vessels heading in and out of ports.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has agreed to let the Coast Guard add transmitters to about 70 buoys by 2007, said Jeff High, a director of the Coast Guard's Maritime Domain Awareness Program in Washington, D.C.

The transmitters will connect to a communications network that in 2004 began receiving signals from all large tankers, barges and cruise vessels heading in and out of major U.S. ports. To legally enter a U.S. port, each vessel must be equipped with a machine that automatically radios information — its cargo, crew list, recent ports of call — to the Coast Guard.

## Citizen review of cops

**MA** BOSTON — Boston's Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole has begun the process of creating a new citizen review board to investigate civilian complaints against the department, more than a decade after a failed attempt to create such a panel.

The board would investigate any complaint not resolved by the de-

partment's Internal Affairs Division, which handles allegations of misuse of force, harassment, bias, and other issues. The board could look into shootings involving police officers, and advise O'Toole.

## Privacy not protected

**SC** COLUMBIA — Officials in two South Carolina counties have asked a company to stop posting some county government land records online after concerns about the availability of residents' Social Security numbers.

Officials in York and Berkeley counties asked to have some documents removed from the Web site registered to Dallas-based Affiliated Computer Services, Inc.

ACS handles government record management for counties in several other states, including New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan.

## Deadly family dispute

**MO** BUFFALO — A man apparently upset over his share of a family inheritance shot and killed his sister and brother-in-law and then killed himself, authorities said.

Dallas County Coroner Bret Viets said Carolyn Martin called authorities and reported that her brother, Bobby Malone, was trying to get into the couple's home near Buffalo in southwest Missouri.

Malone kicked the door in and shot his brother-in-law, Ronnie Martin, 60, during a confrontation in the house, Viets said.

"The sister had gone out the back door," he said. "He went out the back door, shot her, went back in the house and shot himself."

## Traffic deaths up

**VT** BURLINGTON — Vermont in 2004 saw the highest number of fatalities on its roads and highways since 1998.

The state had 97 people die in automobile crashes during the last year, including three deaths in one accident on New Year's Eve in Hardwick. The number is a sharp increase from 2003's total of 69 and the highest since 104 lost their lives six years ago.

## Cheating alleged

**TX** HOUSTON — A newspaper investigation has found evidence that a Houston elementary school celebrated for its high test scores obtained at least some of its success from cheating.

"You're expected to cheat there," said Donna Garner, a former teacher at Wesley Elementary who said her fellow teachers instructed her on how to give students answers while administering tests. "There's no way those scores are real."

The Dallas Morning News investigation also found evidence of cheating at two other schools affiliated with Wesley, Wesley, which has been the subject of many flattering profiles, was the spot where President Bush went when he wanted to declare education his No. 1 priority during his run for governor in 1994.

The News' analysis found troubling gaps in test scores: Wesley, Highland Heights, and Osborne elementary — all three in the Acres Homes neighborhood in Houston.

Stories and photos from wire reports

## FACES

## Murphy's mansion on the market

Actor-comedian Eddie Murphy's seven-bedroom mansion that includes a bowling alley, theater and recording studio is on the market for \$30 million.



Murphy

Murphy, 43, who has owned the gated estate in Englewood, N.J., known as "Bubble Hill" for 18 years, put it on the market this month, The Record of Bergen County reported.

The star of "Trading Places," "Beverly Hills Cop" and "The Nutty Professor" bought the 25,000-square-foot home in 1986, four years after it was built.

"It's an absolutely magnificent, stupendous house," Mary Lenk of Burdorff, Realtors ERA told the newspaper.

The mansion also carries a hefty annual property tax bill, totaling nearly \$200,000 this year, tax records showed.

## Alda relishes villain role

Alan Alda, who plays a scheming senator in Martin Scorsese's new film, "The Aviator," says there's something appealing about being the villain.

"I don't just want power. I want absolute power. That's nice," he told AP Radio of his role in the Howard Hughes biopic.

"The other thing is as a person, it's fun to be able to go in and spend the whole day just being ruthless," he said. "I mean, we'd all like to be ruthless once in awhile."

Alda — perhaps best known for his Emmy-winning role as "Hawkeye" Pierce on the '70s comedy-drama "M.A.S.H." — also plays a senator on NBC's "The West Wing."

But the roles couldn't be more different.

"The guy in 'The Aviator' is a total scuzzball," the 68-year-old actor said. "And the guy on 'West Wing,' he has principles, he's an idealist, he wants to do good for the country, and he's running for president."



Alda

## Tough to get cash off poker champ

Greg Raymer, the 2004 World Series of Poker champion, apparently knows how to yield more than a stack of chips when everything is riding on it.

The soft-spoken, patient attorney from Stonington, Conn., fought off a pair of attackers Dec. 20 at the Bellagio hotel-casino after he had finished playing a cash game of poker, according to a Las Vegas police report.

Raymer was returning to his room about 2 a.m. when two men approached, the report said. As he opened the door to the room, they tried to push him in.

But Raymer resisted and began struggling with the men, the report said. As he was fighting, one of the men pulled out a gun. "We just want the money," Raymer said.

But Raymer didn't give up, and yelled for security, causing the men to flee.

A security officer said one of the suspects was a poker player and also recognized him from a previous incident.

Police made an arrest in the case but the report didn't identify the person.

## Bosnia honors Sontag

Sarajevo authorities will name a street after Susan Sontag, who helped the city's residents during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Sontag, 71, died Tuesday in New York from complications of leukemia.

"The city of Sarajevo [and] its citizens express their sincere thanks to an author and a humanist who actively participated in the creation of the history of Sarajevo and Bosnia," said a statement Thursday from the office of Mayor Muhidin Hamzagic.

A plaque in Sontag's honor will be installed on one of the city's theaters, the statement also said.

Sontag made numerous visits during the war and lobbied for the end of the siege of the Bosnian capital. In 1993, Sontag and a group of actors and directors staged a production of "Waiting for Godot" at the Youth Theater.



Sontag

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

## Bardem sees inside



Javier Bardem spent weeks researching the lives of criminals in preparation for his starring role in "The Sea Inside."

The Washington Post

## Acclaimed Spanish actor explores the debate behind the right to die in 'The Sea Inside'

BY ELAINE DUTKA  
Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — Four years ago, after Javier Bardem walked off with a host of best-actor awards and became the first Spaniard to be nominated for an Oscar in that category, Hollywood came calling. His unforgettable turn as a gay Cuban writer coping with political suppression and AIDS in Julian Schnabel's "Before Night Falls" propelled the sleepy-eyed sex symbol from "zero to 100 miles per hour," as he puts it — virtually overnight.

While many of his countrymen had gone the Latin-lover route or played ethnic sidekicks in cop movies, Bardem sidestepped the celebrity trap. Tempting as it was to work with director Steven Spielberg, he turned down the role eventually played by Colin Farrell in "Milk."

Instead, he put on 30 pounds in 2002 to portray a struggling dockworker in the acclaimed "Mondays in the Sun," Spain's foreign-language Oscar entry. The same year, he played a detective trying to keep his soul clean in John Malkovich's directorial debut, "The Dancer Upstairs."

Born in the Canary Islands and a resident of Madrid, Spain, the actor is a superstar in his homeland, signing on to projects roughly every two years. Most recently, he accepted a cameo as a drug dealer in "Collateral" so he could work with director Michael Mann for a day.

Bardem's heroes are not the outsized characters endemic to celluloid, but everyday folk trying to stay afloat in the face of trying circumstances. In Fine Line Features' "The Sea Inside," the impediments are so severe that the protagonist is fighting to die. With \$25 million in ticket sales, the movie is the highest-grossing Spanish film of the year and the country's entry in the best foreign language film race.

Four million people have seen "The Sea Inside" in Spain alone, reviving the nation's euthanasia debate. On the Hollywood front, there's Oscar buzz surrounding the picture and Bardem's performance.

Based on the true story of poet Ramon Sampedro, the \$13 million film deals with a quadriplegic who spent 30 years in bed after a diving accident. He's drawn to an attractive attorney (Belen Rueda) who supports his cause and to a divorced neighbor (Lola Dueñas) who's trying to convince him that life is worth living. Despite the infusion of love, however, the charismatic Sampedro stands firm. In a case that captured the imagination of the public, he failed

to get legal approval for assisted suicide. In 1998, a friend reported finding him dead in bed and an autopsy revealed traces of cyanide.

Premiering at the Venice International Film Festival in September, the film took the jury grand prize and Bardem was voted best actor. In his mind, it's a movie about a man's determination to regain the freedom denied him by institutions.

"The movie is about medicine, religion and government — who owns your life?" the 35-year-old actor says. "The three of them want to serve the cake of your destiny. I support Sampedro's desire to pass away — and I admire those who want to keep living. Life doesn't have the same meaning for everybody — it's not either/or, good/evil as our leaders want us to believe."

"Is it 'mercy' to make someone suffer because I decide he should live?"

Alluding to Sampedro's book "Letters From Hell," he adds: "The man philosophized about life and death, sex, family, law, church — on the level of Dostoevsky. We're not talking about a teenager who feels misunderstood."

The youngest member of a Spanish acting dynasty, Bardem was director Alejandro Amenabar's only choice to play the 55-year-old invalid.

"When he delivers, Javier has amazing magnetism," says 32-year-old Amenabar, who also co-wrote, co-produced, scored and edited the film. "Like Sampedro, he manages to be seductive, using only his eyes and his voice. He's both instinctive and prepared, mad and disciplined, which was needed for the role. Every day for three months, Javier had five hours of makeup before lying motionless in bed for 10 hours. Even between takes, he couldn't move much because it would disrupt continuity."

Bardem had portrayed a paralyzed policeman in Pedro Almodovar's "Live Flesh" (1997), but Sampedro's plight was different. In summer 2003, detail-obsessed Bardem spent weeks speaking with doctors and quadriplegics in a Spanish hospital.

He learned about labored breathing and the need to speak in short, direct sentences. Externals also informed the characterization. After his head and eyebrows were shaved, makeup designer Jo Allen ("The Hours") applied layers of burning liquid to age his skin. It was then that he began to understand, "from experience rather than theory," a smidgen of what Sampedro endured. And when he looked at his older self with glasses, he recalls with a smile, he saw his late father's face.





# Horoscope

Venus and Pluto join forces to produce the kind of dynamic that makes young single men run screaming. Questions like "Where is the relationship headed?" and "Do you really love me?" suddenly seem like a good idea. At least the Libra man is shedding a favorable light on relationships. Anything worth doing is worth doing with one you like.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(January 3). A year of pleasant surprises is in store! Any difficulties you encounter will be easily conquered if you tap into your powerful warrior spirit and speak your truth. A creative project planted in February flowers in August. A chance for career advancement emerges in March if you remain true to yourself. Love signs are Scorpio and Aquarius.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You experience a lightning flash of insight pertaining to a creative dilemma or a stress-related health problem. Consult your intuition and inner wisdom to plan your strategy. Envision victory, and then, fight the battle.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Give serious thought to what you really and truly need in the way of a deeply committed relationship, which can be quite different from what you want. The stars help you reject that which limits or diminishes your personal power.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Focus on those people or things to which you are most devoted and committed. Doing so makes you feel safe and confident in your abilities. You'll cleverly discover a creative solution to an old problem.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

An unexpected snafu arises, calling for you to draw upon your inner well of strength. Insist on being treated as an equal. You may need to let go of your stronghold on an untenable situation.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Be ready to seize an advantage no matter what circumstance life throws at you. When your mind is an opportu-

nity-seeking mechanism, you can transform a potentially displeasing scenario into something useful.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Purmel a health issue before it gets the better of you. Survey your home and office for dust and mold. You may want to purchase a water purifier or air filter. You have to feel physical in the pink before you can feel romantic.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

A business venture that's been delayed finally gets the green light — but it is best to learn the motivations of others before entering into an alliance. Research will show you should really be.

how willing to compromise you should really be.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Indulge your desire to be low and mull things over. You can make that critical decision later. Avoid people or situations that cause you to go against your femininity (if you're female) or masculinity (if you're male).

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Social awkwardness happens to everyone from time to time. The true cause of this disturbance is buried in your subconscious. Once you know the trigger, you can choose to react differently.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Even a no-nonsense, analytical goat like you can benefit from exploring the outer limits of your warm and fuzzy side. Lead with your intuition and spirituality. Your thoughts affect your future and the people around you.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're the unifying element in an otherwise disjointed group. Using inclusive language with others such as "we" and "our" fosters feelings of team spirit and universal compassion — much needed right now.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Try to avoid charging uphill to fight, or you'll be too exhausted by the time you get to the top. Instead, stand your ground, and aim to break your adversary's resistance without fighting. Vary your methods, and be unpredictable.

Creators Syndicate

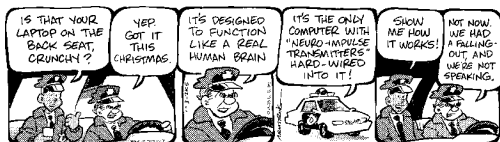
## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



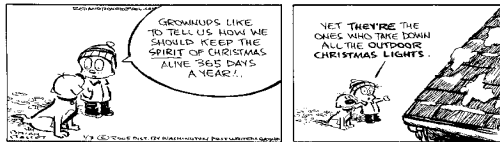
## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



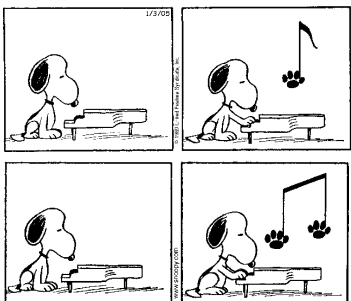
## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts

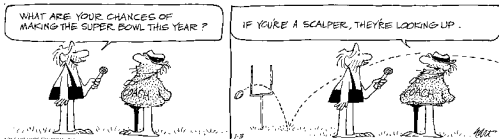




Footrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



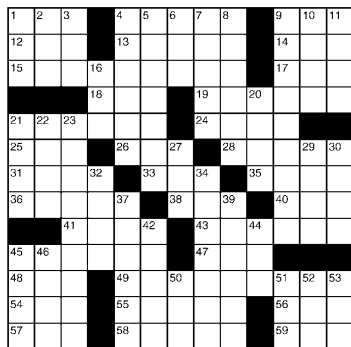
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 "Great Expectations" hero  
4 Bridge positions  
9 Perched  
12 Big fuss  
13 Soda-shop item  
14 Besides (Pref.)  
15 Bluesy instrument  
17 Deleted  
18 Chum  
19 Milky Way, for one  
21 "Bonanza" star  
24 End  
25 Midafternoon, on a sundial  
26 Cash dispenser (Abbr.)  
28 Juniors-to-be  
31 Cabin components  
33 Greek vowel  
35 Vegan's no-no  
36 A Musketeer  
38 Dine  
40 Carte lead-in  
41 Quaker's address  
43 Gloomy  
45 City bosses  
47 La-la preceder  
48 USN rank  
49 2004 victors  
54 Blackbird  
55 Macabre  
56 One or more  
57 Remiss  
58 Fear big-time  
59 Rectangular candy

## Down

- 1 — de deux  
2 Tennyson princess  
3 Plague  
4 Iberian land, to locals  
5 Jock  
6 "No seats" sign  
7 Sharp flavors  
8 Jogger's attire  
9 "It" singer  
10 Pinnacle  
11 Neat  
16 Unclose, in verse  
20 Appear ominously  
21 Arizona river  
22 Laugh-a-minute type  
23 Throw out (Sl.)  
27 Peaks (Abbr.)

- 29 "Gilligan's Island" cast member  
30 Ollie's pal  
32 London neighborhood  
34 Schwarzenegger's home  
37 Worked in the mailroom  
39 Used a blender, maybe  
42 "My Boo" singer  
44 Young fellow  
45 Repeat  
46 Kournikova or Karenina  
50 Before  
51 Enervate  
52 "A Chorus Line" song  
53 End of a "Sesame Street" lesson

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 1-3 CRYPTOQUIP

L M D G N R Y O O L G J  
M G N R P Y F T N Q O R P M R L  
T R Q X L Z O B M R Y T N D Y J O Q Y .

DB OLXT MFY TYMOYZ!  
Saturday's Cryptquip: OLD HORROR-MOVIE DIRECTORS COULD SIT AROUND REMINISCING OVER THEIR GORY DAYS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals L

# Reconciliation a tricky situation

**Dear Abby:** I need to know if I should forgive my husband, "Kurt," or move on and start over.

I had been married 26 years when Kurt called me one day at work to say he no longer knew how he felt about me.

I was speechless. At first, I thought he was joking, but it went from bad to worse, and he asked for a divorce. He became verbally and emotionally abusive after that and moved out for a while. Then we reconciled. Everything was OK until a well-meaning friend called and told me Kurt had been involved with the office suit for more than a year.

When I confronted him, spilled his guts.

I get sick thinking of the way Kurt treated me. My feelings for my husband have changed, since I learned the truth. What I thought was a midlife crisis

turned out to be a true betrayal — but where do I go from here? Since Kurt has returned home, I have been the "queen" in his life. He is truly a different person. What do you think?

**Dear Furious:** I think he's sorry for the mess he made of things and for hurting you. Let's not forget, if he didn't care for you, he could have ended the marriage. And your husband must talk this out until it is laid to rest, and the place to do it is in the presence of a marriage counselor.

**Dear Abby**



**Dear Abby:** For the past year, every time I visit my parents, my mother has commented on items in their home that she wants to go to specific family members after she and Dad are gone.

My siblings and I don't always get along, and I'm afraid that after our parents pass on, there

will be a nasty battle over who gets what.

I have suggested to Mom that she write this all down, but she refuses. She keeps insisting, "You'll remember this." Should I help my parents write down their wishes?

**— Dutiful Daughter in Middletown, N.J.**

**Dear Daughter:** It's a shame that two of the most important subjects — sex and death — are also the most difficult to discuss. In the interest of family harmony, your mother and father should be writing down their wishes concerning their property. However, since your mother seems unwilling when she points out certain items, give her an indelible pen and suggest that she label them with the name of the person she would like to have them.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SYTTA

VALIT

TEWGIN

DICHOR

A: \_\_\_\_\_ OF "\_\_\_\_\_"

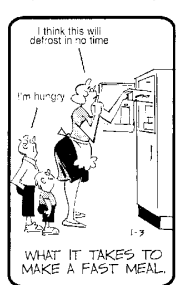
Saturday's

Jumbles: DALLY SCARF PLACID BEHOLD

Answer: The only time of year the crowd wanted the star shortstop to do this — DROP THE "BALL"

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

# Children old enough to fly alone

**Dear Annie:** My kids, ages 11 and 9, live with my ex-wife over 1,000 miles away from me. Each time I want to visit them, I have to pay for very expensive plane tickets and hotel rooms. If they come to my house, it means I have to fly there to pick them up and fly back to return them.

**Annie's Mailbox**



I know that airlines have services to make sure your kids travel safely. I want my children to spend their next vacation with me, but my ex-wife thinks they are too young to travel without a parent. She worries about turbulence or the chance of a plane crash. I agree with her, but flying is safer than driving, and she has no problem putting them in a car. Besides, it was HER decision to move so far away.

My attorney informs me that I choose to have the children fly here, my ex-wife is required to

put them on a plane. I have discussed this with my kids, and my oldest has no problem with it. The younger one is a little unsure.

What are your thoughts on the subject? Is my ex justified not to let them see me unless I pick them up? — **Concerned Parent**

**Dear Parent:** There are no guarantees when it comes to air travel.

While your presence on the plane may be comforting, airlines are wonderful about children traveling alone, and heaven knows, there are plenty of them shuttling between divorced parents these days.

Yes, the kids are old enough to fly by themselves, although they may be nervous the first time they do so. It will help if their mother reassures them, so please discuss this with her. If she is unwilling to put them on a plane,

the two of you should alternate which one of you gets to travel with them. She should not be using this as an excuse for them to avoid seeing their father.

**Dear Annie:** My sister requested an expensive perfume for her birthday. When I purchased the item, I was given a bonus gift of a small travel case with several assorted cosmetics. Should I give the promotional items to my sister? I like many of the products and would like to keep them, if it's OK.

— **Indiana Shopper**

**Dear Indiana:** Yes, you may keep them. The perfume is the gift for your sister. The rest belongs to you for making the purchase, so enjoy.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniemailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniemailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



"Don't pack them too hard, 'cause we might be throwing some of them at Mommy."



**Dennis the Menace**

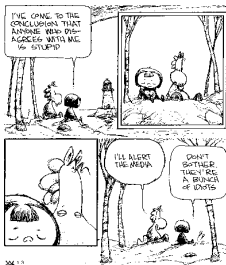


**© Gary Larson**

**The Far Side**



**Non Sequitur**



## SCOREBOARD

## AFN TV &amp; Radio

## Monday

**AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.**-College basketball: Arizona St. at Arizona (dd).  
**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.**-College basketball: Wake Forest at Virginia (dd).  
**AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.**-College basketball: Clemson at Duke (dd).  
**AFN-Sports, 6:30 p.m.**-Golf: 2005 PGA Tour Chevron start (dd).

## Tuesday

**AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.**-NBA: Cleveland at Charlotte.  
**AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and Radio, 2 a.m.**-College football: Super Bowl in Vegas, via Virginia Tech.  
**AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.**-Figure skating: Op of Figure Skating Final (dd).  
**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.**-NBA: Seattle at Miami.  
**AFN-Sports, 1 and 7 p.m.**-College football: Sugar Bowl, Auburn vs. Virginia Tech (dd).

## Wednesday

**AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.**-NBA: Milwaukee at Indiana.  
**AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and Radio, 2 a.m.**-College football: Orange Bowl, Oklahoma vs. South Carolina.  
**AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.**-NBA: Teams TBD.  
**AFN-Sports, 1 and 7 p.m.**-College football: Orange Bowl, Oklahoma vs. Southern Cal (dd).

All Times Central European Time; dd indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.mylife.net](http://www.mylife.net) for more information.

## Tennis

## Uncle Tobs Hardcourts

## Sunday

**At Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, Australia**  
**ATP Surface: Hard-Indoor**  
**First Round**  
 Silvia Farago (1) vs. Jeff, Stephanie Foretz (France), 6-3, 7-5, 6-2.  
 Nicolas Pietrangeli (1) vs. Czech Republic, def. Tímea Babos (Hungary), 6-4, 6-2.  
 David Prinosil (1) vs. Czech Republic, def. Severine Blumel (France), 6-4, 6-2.  
 Andrei Pavel (1) vs. Bulgaria, def. Yuliya Kuznetsov (Ukraine), 6-4, 6-2.  
 Liang Pan (1) vs. China, def. Tamiya Gargal, 6-3, 6-1.

## Pro football

## NFL

## AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	13	0	.867	416	253
N.Y. Jets	10	0	.833	348	214
Buffalo	9	0	.667	348	214
West	10	0	.667	352	234
Indianapolis	0	6	.000	308	318
Jacksonville	1	5	.167	248	318
Miami	1	5	.167	252	324
Tennessee	1	5	.167	252	324
North	14	0	.933	343	249
Pittsburgh	8	0	.800	352	252
Baltimore	7	0	.750	348	252
Cincinnati	5	0	.625	336	327
Cleveland	3	0	.375	254	376
West	4	0	.733	422	246
San Diego	9	0	.692	368	290
Denver	6	0	.600	348	326
Kansas City	6	0	.600	314	329
Oakland	6	0	.600	314	329

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	13	0	.867	376	223
Dallas	10	0	.833	376	223
N.Y. Giants	10	0	.833	376	223
Washington	10	0	.833	376	223
West	10	0	.833	376	223
Atlanta	4	0	.733	314	309
Carolina	7	0	.667	318	318
San Francisco	7	0	.667	318	318
Tampa Bay	5	0	.625	334	294
Green Bay	5	0	.625	334	294
Minnesota	5	0	.625	334	294
Detroit	5	0	.625	334	294
Chicago	5	0	.625	334	294
West	7	0	.733	343	249
Seattle	7	0	.733	343	249
San Francisco	7	0	.733	343	249
San Francisco	7	0	.733	343	249

Weekend playoff spots: y-cinched division

## TANK MCMANARA

THE PIG-BIG CONFERENCE'S TEAMS DON'T GET MONEY FOR WINNING THEIR WAY TO THE BOWLS!

NOPE, BOWL-PRIVILEGE MONEY IS ONLY AWARDED TO EQUALLY DIVIDED TEAMS IN THE CONFERENCE, EVEN THE HANDICAP ONE.

## 2-cinched conference

## Sunday's games

Detroit at Tennessee.  
 Miami at Baltimore.  
 Green Bay at Chicago.  
 N.Y. Jets at St. Louis.  
 Minnesota at Washington.  
 New Orleans at Carolina.  
 New York Jets at New England.  
 Cincinnati at Philadelphia.  
 Atlanta City at San Diego.  
 Tampa Bay at Arizona.  
 Indianapolis at Denver.  
 Jacksonville at Oakland.  
 Dallas at N.Y. Giants.  
 End Regular Season

## College basketball

## AP Men's Top 25 fared

1. Illinois (41-0) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State, Wednesday.  
 2. Kansas (30-0) beat No. 9 Georgia Tech 76-68, OT. Next: vs. Texas A&M, Wednesday.  
 3. Oklahoma State (31-1) did not play. Next: at No. 25 Virginia, Sunday.  
 4. North Carolina (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Duke (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Saturday.  
 5. Syracuse (13-1) did not play. Next: at St. John's, Wednesday.  
 6. Kentucky (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. South Carolina, Thursday.  
 7. Georgia Tech (32-0) lost to No. 2 Kansas 70-67, OT. Next: vs. Duke, Thursday.  
 8. Pittsburgh (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Butler, Thursday.  
 9. Connecticut (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Wednesday.  
 10. Gonzaga (10-2) did not play. Next: at Santa Clara, Thursday.  
 11. Washington (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Stanford, Thursday.  
 12. Arizona (12-2) beat New Orleans 68-57. Next: at Vanderbilt, Wednesday.  
 13. Louisville (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Tennessee State, Sunday.  
 14. George Washington (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. La Salle, Wednesday.  
 15. Mississippi State (1-2) did not play. Next: vs. Auburn, Wednesday.  
 16. Cincinnati (1-1) did not play. Next: vs. DePaul, Thursday.  
 17. Michigan State (8-2) did not play. Next: at Penn State, Wednesday.  
 18. Maryland (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Mount St. Mary's, Wed. Tuesday.  
 19. Virginia (5-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 5 Wake Forest, Sunday.

## Saturday's men's scores

**EAST**  
 Seton Hall 82, Liberty 45  
**SOUTH**  
 Alabama 68, New Orleans 37  
 Tennessee 75, Belmont Abbey 48  
 W. Kentucky 80, Fordham 39  
**MIDWEST**  
 Grand Valley St. 73, Eastern 34  
 Kansas 70, Georgia Tech 68, OT  
 Minnesota 78, Copton 38  
**WEST**  
 SE Missouri 95, Lincoln, Mo. 68  
 Sterling 59, Hastings 95  
 Taber 68, Cent. Methodist 73  
**SOUTHWEST**  
 Rice 78, Louisiana Tech 57  
 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 88, Chicago 59  
 Texas Tech 97, San Francisco 53  
 Nevada 58, Hawaii 55  
 Fresno State 77, San Jose St. 62  
 UTEP 91, Boise St. 77

## Men's women's scores

**EAST**  
 St. Bonaventure 70, Hampshire 37  
**SOUTH**  
 Louisville 70, Kentucky 48  
 N.Y. State 77, Kentucky 48  
**MIDWEST**  
 E. Michigan 71, Columbus 35  
 Illinois 56, Indiana 73  
 Indiana 73, Illinois 56  
 SW Missouri St. Bradley 74  
**WEST**  
 MSU 75, Tulsa 69  
 Fresno St. 79, San Jose St. 69  
 Utah 62, Ind.-Pur. 71, Wayne 42

## Hockey

## World Junior Championship

Team	GP	W	L	OT	GF	GA
Canada	4	3	0	1	9	2
U.S.	4	3	0	1	9	2
Czech Republic	4	3	0	1	9	2
United States	4	3	0	1	9	2
Switzerland	4	1	3	0	13	10
Slovakia	4	1	3	0	13	10
Belarus	4	0	4	0	5	8

U.S.-advanced to semifinals.  
 U.S.-advanced to semifinals.  
**At Thursday, Dec. 25**  
**At Grand Forks, N.D.**  
 Canada 5, Switzerland 4  
 United States 5, Russia 4  
 Czech Republic 7, Belarus 2  
 Finland 4, Finland 0

**Sunday, Dec. 26**  
**At Grand Forks, N.D.**  
 Switzerland 5, Belarus 0  
 Czech Republic 5, Sweden 1  
 Sweden 6, Germany 0

**Monday, Dec. 27**  
**At Grand Forks, N.D.**  
 Canada 6, Sweden 1  
 Russia 6, Czech Republic 4  
**At Thier River Falls, Minn.**  
 Slovakia 8, Finland 0

**Tuesday, Dec. 28**  
**At Grand Forks, N.D.**  
 Canada 6, Germany 0  
**At Thier River Falls, Minn.**  
 Switzerland 1, Belarus 2

**Wednesday, Dec. 29**  
**At Grand Forks, N.D.**  
 Czech Republic 5, Sweden 1  
 Belarus 5, United States 3  
**At Thier River Falls, Minn.**  
 Finland 5, Sweden 4  
 Slovakia 5, Germany 0

**Thursday, Dec. 30**  
**At Grand Forks, N.D.**  
 Canada 5, Finland 1  
**At Thier River Falls, Minn.**  
 Russia 6, Slovakia 0  
 Sweden 3, Slovakia 0

**Friday, Jan. 1**  
**At Grand Forks, N.D.**  
 Switzerland 5, Germany 0  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Czech Republic 5, Sweden 1  
 United States 3, Belarus 2  
**At Grand Forks, N.D.**  
 Slovakia 5, Belgium 2  
 Canada 5, Czech Republic 1  
 Russia 6, Slovakia 0

**Sunday, Jan. 2**  
**Relegation**  
 Belarus 5, Russia 0  
 Switzerland 5, Slovakia 0  
**Final Place**

**Quarterfinals**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 4**  
**At Grand Forks, N.D.**  
**Third Place**  
 Semifinal winners  
 Semifinal winners

**Saturday's college scores**  
**MIDWEST**  
 RPI 3, Notre Dame 44  
**TOURNAMENTS**  
**Budger Showdown**  
 Ferris St. 5, Wisconsin 3  
**Third Place**  
 Clarkson 8, Yale 1  
**Duquesne Cup**  
 Northeastern 5, Colgate 1  
**Final**  
 Middlebury 5, Middlebury Classic  
 U.S. Under-18 Team 1, Trinity, Conn. 1, 7

**Deals**  
**Saturday's transactions**  
**NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**NEW YORK KNICKS**—Placed 6 Jamison Fordham (1) injured list. Activated Penny Hardaway from the injured list.  
**MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES**—Placed Fred Humphrey on the injured list. Activated F Brian Randle from the injured list.  
**ORLANDO MAGIC**—Placed F Michael Bradley on the injured list. Activated D Courtney Lee from the injured list.  
**DETROIT RED WINGS**—Placed D Shaun Rogers on a six-year contract.

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## Hornets' Brown gives all without complaints

By IRA WINDERMAN

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

## Notes

P.J. Brown could have so many more seasons in the NBA. "I'm holding out the best I can," he said from his home outside New Orleans. "This year has been real tough."

How tough? So tough that a reality-bad thing could wind up happening to a really good guy.

At 2-26, the Hornets are on pace for a 6-76 finish, a record that would erase the 9-73 of the 1976 Philadelphia 76ers as the NBA's worst record.

And stuck in the middle is Brown, forced to move from his preferred spot of power forward center because of the team's devastating binge of injuries.

To put in perspective what Brown has had to endure as the only Hornet to start every game this season, consider that New Orleans has played all of its games so far without forward Jamaal Mashburn and most of them without guard Baron Davis and center Jamaal Magloire.

Then consider what the Miami Heat would look like without their top three of Shaquille O'Neal, Dwyane Wade and Eddie Jones.

"I always seems like one of our main guys, whether it's Mash or whether it's Baron or Jamaal Magloire, we've got somebody hurt," Brown said.

That has left Brown to start recent games alongside the likes of Junior Harrington, Alex Garcia, J.R. Smith and Dan Dickau. It's as if the former Heat power forward has been transported to the NBA or CBA or, for that matter, NAIA Division II.

Yet the difference between Brown and those who have moped about their lot at the bottom of the standings (Altonzo Mourning, Vince Carter and now, newest Hornet Jim Jackson) is that Brown dutifully has reported to work nightly.

"All I can say is I'm glad I worked out hard in the offseason," he said with that Bayou laughter that carried him through so many playoff heartbreaks in South Florida. "I tell myself I want to be a champion."

He's 35 now, I'm no spring chicken. I've got to come out there and give my best. I'm not going to give up and lay down."

But those closest to the wiry veteran take a different view, that in a first-year league, Brown is allowing himself to be left behind.

"Other people have brought that to you know, 'Me you need to get out of there. You need to get traded,'" he said. "I told my agent one thing. 'I'm here. I committed to here.' I signed here a year ago, and I said I want to keep fighting. I want to keep playing. I want to do whatever it takes to help this team to win."

"Not one time have I tried to sit on management. They let me out of here. Hey, get me traded." I've heard my name in rumored trades, from the other side.

You're not going to hear anything like that from me."

Recent days, though, have been difficult, with the discarding of veteran guards Darrell Armstrong and David Wesley.

"We were always like the older guys, the grumpy old men," Brown said of the 36- and 34-year-old former teammates.

In many ways, nostalgia is what kept him going. As crusing as it was to bow out in Game 7 last season's opening playoff round to the Heat, Brown remains a fan of his former team, relishing the rivalry in South Florida.

coach Stan Van Gundy and team president Pat Riley.

"That's always my team," he said. "I looked when they played the Lakers and they put that stat where they tied our '96-'97 longest winning streak (11 in a row) that they broke the other team. We won 61 games in '96-'97, but we kept losing to each other they're going to get to that."

"I'm the biggest fan that's out there rooting. If there's one team I want to see get to that mountain-top, it's the Miami Heat. I think Coach Riley deserves to be back on top. Coach Van Gundy is doing a wonderful job."

"I think they've got a legitimate chance. I think they've got everything."

Brown, by contrast, has almost nothing, other than an opportunity to be the first player to see him move forward with chin up, chest out.

"I don't take for granted what I do for a living," he said. "I'm just going to keep enduring and playing hard."

**Turning on the A.C.:** Former Heat point guard Anthony Carter subtly has worked his way into the Minnesota Timberwolves' rotation, now the prime backup to Sam Cassell and ahead of Troy Hudson. Carter's defensive strengths have been credited for the shift. "His time has been limited, but he has worked his butt off," Coach Flip Saunders said.

Hudson's agent immediately suggested a trade. Hudson is in the first year of a six-year, \$36 million contract. Carter is playing for the league minimum.

**Pointed discussion:** Point guard remains a point of contention for Dallas Mavericks coach Don Nelson, who has started three players in the search of a replacement for Steve Nash.

"Each of my point guards is a little different," Nelson said. "I've got one that's too old (36-year-old Ray Allen), I've got one that's too young (rookie Devin Harris). And I've got one that's not really a point guard (shoot-first Jason Terry). And there's my frustration. They all play a little differently. I like all of them, actually. But I don't have any consistency there."

# Wade has his way; Heat wins 14th straight

BY TIM REYNOLDS  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Eddie Jones called it "Jordan-nique," some sort of morphing of Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins highlights. Shaquille O'Neal said it was one of the best 15 plays in NBA history.

Dwayne Wade didn't have an explanation, other than to say everything simply went his way.

Wade's blind, over-the-shoulder flip provided the perfect highlight for his 26-point, nine-assist effort Saturday night, one that led the Miami Heat to their 14th straight win, 113-90 over the Charlotte Bobcats.

Wade made 11 of 16 shots for the Heat, who have the NBA's longest winning streak this season. Miami turned the game into a blowout with a 27-12 third-quarter surge, and Wade — whom the Bobcats couldn't stop.

"Those are the best nights, when you feel like it's just you and the basket and no one can really do much about it," Wade said. "I wish I had more of those nights."

O'Neal added 16 points for Miami (25-7), which had all five starters score in double figures and moved 6½ games ahead of Cleveland for the Eastern Conference's best record.

The Heat shot a season-high 59.2 percent from the floor and made it look easy — no more one shot than Wade.

With 3:53 left in the third quarter, he dribbled past Charlotte's Kareem Rush and drove down the left side of the lane.

Brevin Knight stepped in front, and wrapped both arms around Wade — who turned his back from the basket, tossed the ball over his shoulder and somehow got it to fall through the hoop.

"That's the kind of night he had going," Knight said. "You have to tip your hat and move on."

Added Miami's Udonis Haslem: "Once he gets in that groove, he can throw up all kinds of stuff. It'll go in."

Emeka Okafor had his 19th straight double-double — 17 points and 10 rebounds — for Charlotte, which also got 14 points from Jason Hart, 10 points from Rush, and seven assists from Knight. The Bobcats' starters were outscored 78-41 by Miami's opening lineup.

The Heat's winning streak is the NBA's longest since New Jersey won 14 straight last season. The last team to win more consecutively was O'Neal's Los Angeles Lakers, who had a 19-game run during the 1999-2000 season on the way to a championship.

"They are a good basketball team, and

we are just not in that class, especially on a back-to-back," said Bobcats coach Bernie Bickerstaff, whose team lost its fifth straight game after a game that has persistence to get just one thing done.

Charlotte lost at home on Friday to Seattle.

Foul trouble sent O'Neal to the bench twice in the first half — but Miami pulled away on both occasions.

O'Neal picked up his second foul with 3:33 left in the first, but the Heat responded with a 13-2 run to build an eight-point lead. And with O'Neal out with three fouls, Miami outscored Charlotte 44-14 in the last 3:32 of the half to take a 55-43 edge.

Wade added plenty of entries to his burgeoning highlight reel.

He had three dunks in the second quarter, the first coming on a two-handed slam after he dribbled uncontested down the lane for a 33-26 lead.

## Kidd's Nets top Marbury's Knicks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The self-proclaimed "best point guard in the NBA" did not throw the pass of the night. Jason Kidd did, and Vince Carter had been waiting almost a decade to see one like it.

Carter dunked an off-the-backboard, alley-op feed from Kidd, and the New Jersey Nets defeated the New York Knicks 93-87 Saturday night.

"It was in college, against Duke, at home and I missed it," Carter said of the last time he had seen such a pass. "I said the next time it ever happened again, I'd take care of it."

"I was just expecting him to throw it back to me, but when I saw him throw it off the backboard, inside I was like 'Oh, I know what to do with this.'"

Kidd did not outplay counterpart Stephon Marbury one day after Marbury made his bid declaration about being the NBA's best point guard.

Marbury had 31 points, eight assists and four rebounds to Kidd's 13 points, three assists and four rebounds, but the Nets led throughout the final three quarters and did what they usually do against their cross-river rivals in beating the Knicks for the 17th time in 20 meetings.

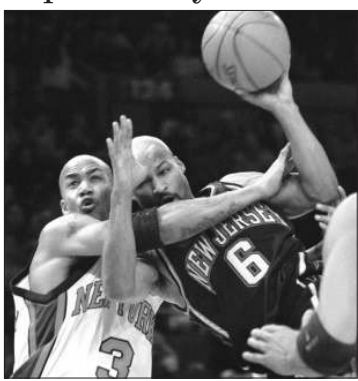
"There was no reason for him to feel he had to say that," Kidd said. "Don't hammer him too much, just ease him in this season."

Carter, who assumed the playmaking duties for the Nets during a large part of the fourth quarter, had 16 points, five assists and six rebounds, while Richard Jefferson had 17 points, six rebounds and four assists.

Nazr Mohammed added 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Knicks, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

Marbury's statement was the talk of Madison Square Garden prior to tipoff.

"Don't get me wrong, I love Jason Kidd, he is a great point guard," Marbury said. "[But] how am I comparing myself to



Knicks point guard Stephon Marbury fouls New Jersey's Travis Best on a breakaway to the basket. Marbury scored 31 points in the loss.

him when I think I'm the best point guard to play basketball? That makes no sense. I can't compare myself to somebody when I already think I'm the best."

"I'm telling you what it is. I know I'm the best point guard in the NBA," Marbury said.

Kidd spoke only briefly with reporters before tipoff, joking that he would be just the third-best point guard in the building, ranking himself behind Marbury and Kidd for as long as I've been here, and never once has he said he's the best."

**Grizzlies 104, Timberwolves 95:** Pau Gasol scored 23 points

and Earl Watson added 20 to lead Memphis to a come-from-behind victory at Madison Square.

Watson shot 7-for-10 and 5-for-5 from three-point range for Memphis, which trailed by 15 points in the first half. Fellow reserve Bonzi Wells added 18 points as Memphis won its third straight and for the sixth time in eight games.

**Bulls 105, Magic 90:** Eddy Curry scored 22 points and Kirk Hinrich added 18 points and nine assists for Chicago at home.

**Trail Blazers 97, Warriors 88:** In Portland, Ore., Shaaree Abdul-Rahim had 26 points and nine rebounds to help Portland rally to snap Golden State's four-game winning streak. The Warriors built a 14-point lead in the second half, but Damon Stoudamire capped a Portland comeback with two consecutive three-pointers to tie it at 71. The Blazers got another Stoudamire three to tie it again, then went ahead 78-76 on rookie Sebastian Telfair's layup.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	Pct	GB
New York	16	43.3
Philadelphia	15	46.7
Boston	13	44.8
New Jersey	10	48.3
Toronto	10	52.3

Southwest Division	Pct	GB
Miami	17	78.1
Orlando	15	53.6
Washington	15	53.6
Charlotte	5	20
Atlanta	5	29

Central Division	Pct	GB
Cleveland	17	58.6
Detroit	15	53.6
Indianapolis	15	53.6
Chicago	10	37.0
Milwaukee	9	37.0

### Western Conference

Northwest Division	Pct	GB
San Antonio	19	65.6
Dallas	19	65.6
Portland	15	50.9
Memphis	15	46.9
New Orleans	10	60.1

Northwest Division	Pct	GB
Seattle	12	7.9
Minnesota	12	27.1
Portland	14	50.0
Utah	12	48.3

Pacific Division	Pct	GB
Phoenix	25	48.2
Sacramento	18	48.2
L.A. Lakers	15	55.6
Utah at Houston	13	55.6
Golden State	11	36.7

Saturday's games	Pct	GB
Miami 113, Charlotte 90		
New Jersey 93, New York 87		
Memphis 104, Minnesota 95		
Chicago 102, Orlando 99		
Portland 97, Golden State 88		

Sunday's games	Pct	GB
Atlanta at Washington		
Philadelphia at L.A. Clippers		
Boston at Detroit		
Atlanta at Phoenix		
Utah at Houston		
Milwaukee at Dallas		
San Antonio at Sacramento		
Denver at L.A. Lakers		

Sunday's games	Pct	GB
Orlando at Toronto		
New York at Brooklyn		
Cleveland at Charlotte		
Seattle at Miami		
Utah at Memphis		
Atlanta at Golden State		
L.A. Clippers at Denver		
Philadelphia at Golden State		
Milwaukee at Dallas		
New Jersey at Washington		
Phoenix at Portland		
Phoenix at Minnesota		
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio		

### Saturday

Trail Blazers 97, Warriors 88	Pct	GB
Golden State 88, Portland 97		
Memphis 104, Magic 90		
Chicago 102, Orlando 99		
Portland 97, Golden State 88		

Sunday's games	Pct	GB
Portland 97, Golden State 88		
Golden State 88, Portland 97		
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Sunday's games	Pct	GB
Portland 97, Golden State 88		
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### Heat 113, Bobcats 90

Charlotte	Pct	GB
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# Langford's hoop caps Jayhawks' rally over Tech

BY DOUG TUCKER

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — It took Kansas more than a half to realize it could beat a good team without Wayne Simien.

Langford's twisting shot in the lane with 3 seconds left in overtime lifted short-handed No. 2 Kansas past No. 9 Georgia Tech 76-68 on Saturday, capping a rally from a 16-point deficit.

"It's almost a naked feeling not having him (Simien) out there in a big game like that, especially with this team really needing him," Langford said. "But something happened. Guys just stepped up. We just stepped up to the challenge."

Simien, Kansas' leading scorer and rebounder, is out for at least a month with a thumb injury. The Jayhawks were playing for the second time without their star, and Georgia Tech was their first ranked opponent since he went out.

At the outset, the Jayhawks (9-0) seemed to be entirely out of sync.

"Wayne Simien is an All-American. And that's hard to replace," said point guard Aaron Miles, who became Kansas' career assists leader. "But we can do it collectively, and that's the thing we did. People just stepped up and made plays."

It was a physical, fast-paced rematch of a regional final in the 2004 NCAA tournament, a game the Yellow Jackets won in overtime en route to the national championship game.

Georgia Tech (9-2) was also missing a key player after guard B.J. Elder, its leading scorer, went out in the first half with a strained hamstring. Coach Paul Hewitt said he was not sure how long Elder would be gone.

"It was a very hard-fought game," Hewitt said. "They made more plays offensively down the stretch than we did. It is awfully disappointing to give out that type of effort and not come away with the win."

Kansas did not take its first lead until the extra period. Langford had a hand in that, too, stealing the ball to set up Alex Galindo's basket that gave the hosts a 66-65 edge with 1:38 left.

Then, with the capacity crowd at Allen Fieldhouse screaming, Langford put a spin move on defender Mario West and launched the game-winner.

Langford, who had only two points at halftime, led the Jayhawks with 18, J.R. Giddens had 16 and Miles finished with 14 in his 11th straight start at point guard.

Jarrett Jack led Georgia Tech with 26 points.



Kansas center C.J. Giles, left, and guard Russell Robinson pressure Georgia Tech guard Will Bynum (11) during the first half of Saturday's game at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan. No. 2 Kansas rallied from a 16-point deficit to beat ninth-ranked Georgia Tech 76-68 in overtime.

# Alabama rolls into SEC play with win

The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Alabama made quick work of New Orleans in its final tuneup for Southeastern Conference play.

Earnest Shelton scored 14 points and Jermario Davidson had 12 points and nine rebounds in the No. 18 Crimson Tide's 68-57 victory Saturday night.

"I really liked how we played in the first half. ... I think in the second half we broke our rhythm a little bit, substituting like we did," Alabama coach Mark Gottfried said. "We got a little bit out of sync, but our starters back and they were a little cold from sitting so long. But overall it was a good win."

After taking a 41-24 halftime lead, Alabama missed 17 of 23 shots from the field in the second half. The Privateers (5-8) used an 11-2 spurt to cut it to 65-55 and held Alabama to only one field goal in the final 12 minutes.

"I think our strength was our defense, especially later on in the game," said Bo McCalebb, who led New Orleans with 26 points.

McCalebb was 11-for-22 from the field and 4-for-5 from the line.

"McCalebb doesn't stop going to the hole. He's quick and has all kinds of moves," Shelton said.

Alabama will open Southeastern Conference play Wednesday night at Vanderbilt.

# Sharapova wallops Williams, then auctions off her racket

The Associated Press

CHIANG MAI, Thailand — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova stamped her authority over Venus Williams on Sunday, using strong baseline strokes to overpower the American 6-4, 6-3 in an exhibition match.

## Sports briefs

The match began with a 30-second tribute to victims of the tsunami that killed more than 123,000 people from Asia to Africa, including nearly 5,000 confirmed dead in Thailand. It ended with the players auctioning off their rackets for \$2,560.

The players are preparing for the Australian Open, the season's first Grand Slam event, in two weeks.

## Pennetta upsets Decchy

GOLD COAST, Australia — Flavia Pennetta of Italy beat former champion and sixth-seeded Nathalie Dechy of France 7-6 (9-7), 6-1

on the opening day of the Australian women's hardcourt championships.

Decchy, the 2003 champion, has made at least the quarterfinals of this event four times, but struggled Sunday in this warmup for the Australian Open.

Also, fifth-seeded Silvia Farina Elia of Italy beat Stephanie Foretz of France 6-3, 7-5, eighth-seeded Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria defeated Yuliana Fedak of Ukraine 6-4, 6-1, Denisa Hladkova of the Czech Republic defeated Severine Beltrame of France 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, and Li Na of China beat Tathiana Garbin of Italy 6-3, 6-1.

## Argentina wins in Hopman

PERTH, Australia — Guillermo Coria beat David Sanguinetti 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) Sunday and then teamed with Gisela Dulko to win the mixed doubles, giving Argentina a 2-1 victory over Italy in the opener of the eight-nation Hopman Cup team tournament, an Australian Open tuneup.

Francesco Schiavone defeated Dulko 6-1, 6-3 in the first match.

Coria, last year's losing finalist in the French Open, evened the series by winning his singles. Coria and Dulko then topped Schiavone and Sanguinetti 7-5, 6-0 in the deciding mixed doubles.

## U.S. tops Sweden

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Phil Kessel scored three goals and added an assist to help the United States advance to the semifinals of the world junior championships with an 8-2 victory over Sweden on Saturday night.

Kevin Porter, Drew Stafford, Robbie Schremp, Ryan Suter and Tim Hensick also scored for the defending champion Americans, who advanced to face Russia.

In the other semifinal, tournament favorite Canada plays the Czech Republic.

The 17-year-old Kessel gave the United States a 3-1 lead in the second period and added two goals in a 3:06 span early in the third.



Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova yuks it up with an elephant in Thailand's Chiang Mai province a day before playing a charity exhibition match to help raise money for the country's tsunami victims.

"I thought we got better as the game went on," U.S. coach Scott Sandelin said. "Thank God for Phil Kessel. He was definitely the difference for us tonight."

Al Montoya made 29 saves, allowing only Loui Ericksson's two goals.

"We still want to win the gold

medal and we still have a chance, it's just a longer route," Montoya said. "To be the best you have to play the best."

The Czech Republic advanced with a 3-0 victory over Finland.

Marek Schwarz made 21 saves, and Petr Vrazek, Rostislav Olesz and Roman Cervenka scored goals.

# Sugar Bowl bittersweet for No. 3 Auburn

Even with a win over No. 9 Virginia Tech, undefeated Tigers would be out of title picture

By NANCY ARMOUR

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Poor Auburn.

A 12-0 record and SEC title would be enough to make the Tigers a front-runner for the national title most years — or at least cause a spirited debate about who's No. 1.

But this isn't most years. While Southern California and Oklahoma prepare for their Orange Bowl matchup that probably will decide an undisputed national title, Auburn can only watch like the kid with his nose pressed up against the glass. No matter what the Tigers do on Monday night's Sugar Bowl, they have little, if any, chance of being No. 1.

"To be honest with you, it gives us more motivation," running back Carnell Williams said. "Everybody's mad, disappointed, hurt. But why should we stop here and let that be a setback? Why not go out on Jan. 3 and try to show people that the system is whacked? They messed up. We are the best team."

If this scenario sounds familiar, well, it is. Only No. 3 Auburn's plight is even more pitiful than top-ranked Southern California's being left out of the Bowl Championship Series title game last year.

The Trojans at least had the hope of splitting the national title because they were No. 1 in both polls, and that's exactly what happened. Southern California kept its No. 1 ranking in the Associated Press Top 25 poll, while LSU won the BCS crown.

"If it happens we're fortunate enough to win, perhaps some other poll might decide we de-



serve to be No. 1," said Ed Richardson, the interim president at Auburn.

But Auburn is behind No. 1 Southern California and No. 2 Oklahoma, who have identical 12-0 records. Even if Auburn beats No. 9 Virginia Tech (10-2) in one of those laughers usually reserved for nonconference foes, the Tigers are unlikely to leapfrog the Orange Bowl winner or be anything other than the answer to a trivia question.

No team from a major conference has gone unbeaten without getting at least a share of the national title since Penn State in 1994. The Nittany Lions were 12-0 then and won the Rose Bowl, but Nebraska was 13-0 and a consensus champ.

"This is all mythical," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said.

"When you don't have a playoff of four, eight or 16 teams, it's picked by other people. We think we're the best team in the country, and we've played like it so far most of the time this year. But again, that's for other people to decide."

The BCS tweaked its formula this year in hopes of avoiding messes just like this, emphasizing the human polls over computers.



Auburn quarterback Jason Campbell was the SEC's offensive player of the year this season, setting career highs with 19 touchdown passes and 2,511 yards passing. He threw only six interceptions.

But as Auburn and Utah and California found out, the polls aren't foolproof, either.

While Southern California and Oklahoma have been the national title favorites all year, Auburn was way down at No. 17 in the pre-season poll. That's a lot of ground to make up, and the Tigers had little hope of doing it when USC and Oklahoma kept winning.

"This is a perfect example of how we need to wait until Oct. 1 or Oct. 15 before we do those polls, because it's just a fact that things change," said Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer, who votes in the coaches poll. "We started off with Southern Cal one, Oklahoma two and Auburn three. About five or six weeks from the

end, I just thought Auburn was playing the best football. That's no slight to Oklahoma, but I had Southern Cal one, Auburn two and Oklahoma three."

Auburn climbed as high as a tie for second with Oklahoma in the Nov. 14 AP poll, but dropped back to third the following week. Even a victory over then-No. 15 Tennessee — the Tigers' second of the year — in the SEC championship game couldn't give them the boost they needed.

No offense to USC and Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart or to Oklahoma, playing for its second national title in five years, but Auburn might be the best story in college football this year.

Certainly no team has over-

come more than the Tigers to get where they are.

A soap opera writer couldn't have scripted Auburn's 2003 season.

The Tigers didn't come close to meeting their lofty expectations, and a small cabal of university leaders embarrassed themselves and the school and humiliated Tuberville with their bungled attempt to push the coach out.

In a rare display of decorum in athletics, Tuberville refused to fire back at his detractors. That class struck a chord with his players, and they credit the turmoil for bringing them even closer.

Williams, fellow running back Ronnie Brown and cornerback Carlos Rogers decided to put the NFL on hold and return for their senior seasons.

"It was always taught you have to go through the storm to get to the other side," receiver Courtney Taylor said. "We done weathered the storm."

That this could be a special season became clear in the third game, when the Tigers rallied to beat then-No. 5 LSU 10-9 on a touchdown with 1:14 left. They rolled from there, winning all but one of their games by double digits. Their 12-0 record is the best in Auburn history, and their SEC title was the school's first since 1989.

"We really have done something special this year by going 12-0," said Auburn's star Marcus McNeill said. "We want to end this perfect season and go down as one of Auburn's greatest seasons."

And the Tigers will have to be content with that. Because this year, perfect isn't quite good enough.

## Orange Bowl as perfect a matchup as BCS allows

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Pete Carroll calls this one the perfect matchup, and in many ways it is: USC vs. Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl for the national title.

Preseason favorites to make it to Miami, the Trojans and Sooners were No. 1 and No. 2 in the polls all year. They feature the last two Heisman Trophy winners and about a dozen All-Americans between them.

Two of college football's most storied and tradition-rich programs, Oklahoma and Southern California have 11 AP national titles combined.

Of course, rarely is anything ever perfect when the Bowl Championship Series is involved.

The top-ranked Trojans (12-0) and No. 2 Sooners (12-0) meet Tuesday night for a national championship that will wrap up the college football season, but not necessarily the debate over who's No. 1.

On Monday night, No. 3 Auburn puts its 12-0 record on the

No. 1 USC, No. 2 Oklahoma have been on path to title game all season



line against Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl with a chance to finish a perfect season that will compare favorably with that of the Orange Bowl winner.

"It stinks the way it played out this year for them," Oklahoma quarterback Jason White said. "They're a great team. They probably deserve to be in this championship game just as much as either of us. But that's the way it worked out."

USC and Oklahoma were right at the center of last year's BCS mess. The Trojans were left out of the BCS title game despite being

No. 1 in the polls. The Sooners got in despite a lopsided loss in the Big 12 championship game.

In the end, USC finished on top in The Associated Press Top 25 and LSU beat Oklahoma to win the BCS crown.

"We were playing for the title in our minds last year," Carroll, the Trojans' coach, said. "But this year there's an added dimension."

The BCS guys were determined to make sure a consensus No. 1 would never again be left out of the title game, so this year's formula emphasized the polls over the computers.

Next problem solved: There are three unbeaten teams, all clearly worthy of a spot in the title game. For that, there is no BCS solution.

"I'd love to see a playoff, though this does feel a little like a playoff," Carroll said. "But I'm not hopeful for that."

At least this season neither title game participant is being labeled undeserving, as the Sooners were last season after being throttled

35-7 by Kansas State for the Big 12 championship.

With a chance to redeem themselves, the Sooners fell flat in the Sugar Bowl. The battered White looked little like a Heisman Trophy winner in the 21-14 loss to LSU.

The Sooners turned last year's failures into this season's motivation.

White returned for a sixth season and threw for 2,961 yards and 33 touchdowns, making a run at another Heisman.

A new star also emerged in Norman, Okla. Freshman Adrian Peterson has run for 1,843 yards and 15 touchdowns and finished second in the Heisman voting, just ahead of White.

"I'm not surprised to be (in the title game) my freshman season because I knew what I was coming into; I knew what kind of team I was coming to," Peterson said.

USC also lived up to its hype. The Trojans were an overwhelming preseason No. 1, despite losing several All-Americans from last year's title team.

The Trojans showed some flaws but never came undone.

"A lot of people had us No. 1 at the start of the year, but didn't think we'd go undefeated," USC quarterback Matt Leinart said. "It says a lot about the kind of team we have."

Leinart's leadership and precise passing made him USC's second Heisman Trophy winner in three seasons. The left-hander who took over for 2002 Heisman winner Carson Palmer has thrown for 2,990 yards and 29 touchdowns over 10 yards per touch with 15 TDs.

Leinart was joined at the Heisman ceremony in New York by teammate Reggie Bush. The versatile and explosive tailback averaged over 10 yards per touch with 15 TDs.

With Leinart on one side and White on the other, the ninth meeting between the Sooners and Trojans may be the most important, but it's a college football first. Never before have two players with Heismans faced off.

The Trojans are 5-2-1 against Oklahoma. Three times the Trojans were ranked No. 1 when they played the Sooners, starting with the first matchup in 1963.

# Source: LSU wants Miles

BY MARY FOSTER

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Oklahoma State coach Les Miles is the top choice to replace Nick Saban as LSU's football coach, a source close to the negotiations said Saturday.

Miles could be introduced as Saban's replacement early next week, the source said on the condition of anonymity. The source added that no other interviews had been set up.

Miles, who led Oklahoma State to three straight bowl games, emerged as the top candidate Saturday after Louisville coach Bobby Petrino withdrew from consideration.

LSU associate athletic director

Herb Vincent said "the field has obviously been narrowed."

Telephone messages left for Miles and his agent, George Bass, weren't immediately returned.

LSU spokesman Michael Bonnette, speaking at the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla., where the Tigers lost to Iowa 30-25 in Saban's last game, would not comment on Miles. Bonnette said athletic director Skip Bertman was unavailable.

Oklahoma State spokesman Steve Buzzard said he knew nothing about the reports and had no further comment.

The LSU job opened when Saban took the head coaching job with the Miami Dolphins. The school hoped to complete the search quickly to allow the new

coach to immediately get involved with recruiting.

The process was delayed because the most prominent candidates were in bowl games or in the NFL.

Arkansas football coach Houston Nutt withdrew from consideration on Thursday.

LSU had hoped to interview Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Jack Del Rio, but the parties involved were apparently unable to set up the interview.

Miles is 28-21 in four seasons with the Cowboys, who had made just one bowl appearance in the 12 seasons before he arrived. His biggest wins came against the Cowboys' in-state rival, Oklahoma, in his first two seasons.

On Wednesday, Oklahoma



Les Miles

State lost 33-7 to Ohio State in the Alamo Bowl.

Saban had the nation's richest college football contract, a seven-year, \$18.45 million deal he signed after winning a share of the national title in 2003. The school is completing a stadium expansion and a new football operations center.

# Meyer wins coach of year award

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Utah's Urban Meyer received the Football Writers Association/Eddie Robinson coach of the year award Saturday after leading the Utes to a 12-0 season.

The honor was announced during the Utes' 35.7 victory over Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl, the final piece in Utah's first perfect season since 1930.

The other finalists for the award — first presented in 1957 to Ohio State's Woody Hayes — were Southern California's Pete Carroll, Tommy Tuberville of Auburn, Mike Price of Texas-El Paso, Iowa's Kirk Ferentz and California coach Jeff Tedford.

Meyer was 22-2 at Utah and guided the Utes to the first Bowl Championship Series game for a team from a conference without an automatic BCS berth.

Saturday's game was Meyer's last with the Utes. He was hired by Florida to replace the fired Ron Zook, but was allowed to coach Utah one last time.

Meyer will be presented with the award Sept. 3 in his Florida debut when the Gators host Wyoming.

# A&M rewards Franchione with raise, extension

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Texas A&M coach Dennis Franchione will get a contract extension and a raise after leading the Aggies to the Cotton Bowl in his second season.

Athletic director Bill Byrne said Saturday that Franchione's contract, currently worth \$1.7 million annually through 2010, was being restructured. He didn't release the details.

"He's done a great job with the talent we

have and I look forward to a great future at Texas A&M," Byrne said before the Aggies (7-5) finished their season with a 38-7 loss to Tennessee. "We want to make sure Dennis Franchione continues to coach our football team."

The deal is expected to be completed this month. Byrne would only say that Franchione would remain among the best-paid coaches in the country.

"It certainly provides continuity and pa-

tenance for what we're trying to do, and understanding," Franchione said. "This is where we want to finish our coaching career, and where (wife) Kim and I want to be."

The Cotton Bowl was Texas A&M's first New Year's Day game in six years. The Aggies were 4-8 last season.

Texas A&M started this season with a 41-21 loss at Utah, then won six straight games before losing three of its last four. The Aggies still got their first Cotton Bowl berth since 1998, after Texas got into the BCS.

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# Utes: Spread offense kept Pitt off balance

UTES, FROM BACK PAGE

"It became pretty obvious pretty quick that Pitt was going to pressure us and that they were going to crowd the line of scrimmage," Smith said. "When you do that with this offense, you're going to have some big plays."

Out of a dizzying array of formations, the Mountain West Conference change kept the Panthers off balance all night with everything from option plays to a handful of shovel passes. The Utes set up one touchdown with a reverse and scored another on the old "hook-and-ladder" play.

"We practiced that play for two weeks, at least twice a day, and it never worked," Smith said.

It worked when it mattered, though.

Smith threw to Steve Savoy, who flipped the ball to Warren. Warren dashed 18 yards for the score, capping a 10-play, 94-yard drive, to put the Utes up 35-7 with 25 seconds left in the third quarter.

Pitt (8-4) was overmatched in its final game under coach Walt Harris, who is leaving for Stanford after eight seasons with the Panthers. Pittsburgh was the unwanted team among the eight BCS squads.

"I really don't have a lot of feelings right now," Harris said. "I'm kind of numb because, you know, I was hoping that we would play better."

The Panthers automatically

**"They are a very good, very explosive team, and it was a tough game for us."**

Walt Harris  
Pitt coach

qualified for one of the four elite games as Big East champions, even though they were only 21st in the BCS rankings.

Dave Wannstedt, who resigned this season as coach of the Miami Dolphins, has been hired to replace Harris.

As the BCS buster with a huge following, Utah was welcomed by the Fiesta Bowl organizers, but they had no choice but to invite Pitt as the opponent. The mismatch that many predicted was dead on.

"They are a very good, very explosive team, and it was a tough game for us," Harris said. "We did not match up physically as well as we needed to in order to stay in it, especially offensively."

In the first half, the Panthers accomplished their goal of controlling the ball and keeping Utah's offense off the field as much as possible. Pitt had a seven-minute advantage in time of possession, but the Utes still led 14-0, even though they had the ball only four times, the last with just 49 seconds to go in the half.

The Panthers were in Utah territory three times in the first half, but four sacks — and a blocked field goal try — kept them scoreless.

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Utah quarterback Alex Smith prepares to throw against Pittsburgh defender Joe Clermond (58) in the first quarter of the Fiesta Bowl. Smith threw for 328 yards and four touchdowns in the Utes' 35-7 victory.

# No need to second-guess a magical season for Utes

BY SCOTT BORDOW

East Valley Tribune (Mesa, Ariz.)

TEMPE, Ariz. — Congratulations, Utah, you just completed the best season in school history.

You're 12-0.

You outclassed Pittsburgh 35-7 in the Fiesta Bowl.

You proved once and for all that you belonged in the alphabet soup that is the BCS, and when the final college football polls are released, you'll be ranked in the top five.

It's been a magical, unexpected season amid the rolling hills and snow-capped mountains, but some of you surely will be asking yourselves a wistful question this morning:

What if?

What if we had a chance to play for the national championship? What if we had the opportunity to play either USC or Oklahoma? Are we good enough? Could we beat one of college football's superpowers?

The answers: Probably not — and it doesn't matter.

Yes, Utah has had a terrific season. But the Mountain West Con-

## Commentary

ference is not the toughest road to travel. The Utes beat one team — Texas A&M — with a national pedigree, and that came way back in September.

If Utah played in the Pac-10, it wouldn't have ended the season undefeated and in a BCS game. That's not a knock on the Utes, just reality.

Let's remember, too, that as impressive as was the rout of Pittsburgh, the Panthers didn't deserve to be in the Fiesta Bowl. They were the strongest of the 99-pound weaklings from the Big East. But in no way does an acknowledgment of the college football landscape minimize Utah's accomplishments.

It's hard to go 12-0 — at any level. A key injury here, a bad bounce there, an off day, and 12-0 easily can become 11-1 or worse.

"This season was just a fairy tale," coach Urban Meyer said. "The Utes' achievement is even more remarkable in light of the fact they finished 5-6 just two seasons ago. Few college football programs can make such a giant leap in such a short time."

Credit, of course, goes to Meyer and junior quarterback Alex Smith.

They were perfect for each other, like peanut butter and jelly. Or, in the Fiesta Bowl's case, chips and salsa.

Smith, who doesn't have the strongest arm in the world or the quickest feet, needed a coach who would take advantage of his best attribute — his intelligence. Meyer needed a quarterback who could run what may be the most complicated offense in college football.

There are teams that run the option offense, and other teams that work from a spread formation.

Utah may be the only team that does both.

"Our quarterback has to make a read on every single play, whether it's in the run game and he's making an option read off of somebody or in the pass game making his pass reads," Utah quarterbacks coach Dan Mullen said.

Smith, who can do everything and make all those decisions on every play.

Smith, a Heisman Trophy finalist, was his usual brilliant self Saturday, completing 29 of 37 passes for 328 yards and four touchdowns and rushing 15 times for 68 yards. Meyer's night was crowned by the announcement that he was selected coach of the year by the Football Writers Association.

It was the perfect ending for the perfect season.

But there was, as well, a bitter-sweet aftertaste for the 50,000 or so Utah fans who packed Sun Devil Stadium.

(Cardinals owner Bill Bidwill should have had the gates locked so he'd see some red for Sunday's Arizona-Tampa Bay game.)

Meyer is headed for the University of Florida, where he'll make a lot of money and chase national championships. Smith could enter the NFL draft — and take it from someone who saw Purdue's Kyle Orton and Smith in a span of 24 hours: Smith is the better quarterback, and it's not even close.

Utah won't take up residence in college football's basement, but its Fiesta days are over. It will again become what it's always been, a nice program that knows its place.

So a word of advice for Utes fans: Forget about USC or Oklahoma and enjoy the moment. A season like this doesn't come along very often.

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# Rix recovers to lead FSU to Gator victory

By JOHN RABY

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Nice recovery, Chris Rix.

Coach Bobby Bowden stuck with his struggling quarterback and Rix eventually sparked No. 17 Florida State to a second-half touchdown drives Saturday, beating West Virginia 30-18 in the Gator Bowl.

"Chris played kind of like his career has gone," Bowden said. "That's what's been missing all year. We finally got it, but now the season is over."

For Rix, the inconsistent performance provided a fitting end in his final game. At least it didn't end with a loss as the Seminoles (9-3) overcame mistake after mistake to avoid an unprecedented third straight bowl setback.

Bowden, facing his former school for the first time since the 1982 Gator Bowl, moved within one bowl win of Joe Paterno's NCAA record of 20 at Penn State. Rix fumbled three times and threw two interceptions, one of which led to a touchdown. So at halftime, Bowden thought about replacing Rix.

"It wouldn't have taken much more," the coach said.

Rix eventually settled down, completing five straight passes during a 90-yard drive late in the third quarter, capped by his 14-yard TD pass to Craython Thorpe. Thorpe leaped for the ball over Dee McCann in the right corner of the end zone for a 23-15 lead.

It was only Rix's third TD pass of the season.

"We were good throwing today when we had to," said Florida State offensive coordinator Jeff Bowden.

Rix also led an 80-yard scoring drive in the fourth quarter, capped by James Coleman's 1-yard run. Rix finished 16-for-31 for 157 yards.



Florida State's Chris Rix fakes a hand-off to Lorenzo Booker during the second quarter against West Virginia at the Gator Bowl on Saturday in Jacksonville, Fla.

"Statistically, I didn't have the game I wanted," Rix said. "But the biggest thing is that we won."

Leon Washington carried Florida State much of the day, finishing with 195 yards rushing.

Quarterback Rasheed Marshall and West Virginia's platoon of running backs shredded the nation's top run defense for 238 yards.

Kay-Jay Harris carried 25 times for 134 yards and scored twice.

But the Mountaineers (8-4) failed to find the end zone three times after advancing inside the 20-yard line.

"We prepared well. The focus was good. The effort was good. We just made some

mistakes," said West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez.

"You make mistakes against good teams, especially like Florida State, it's going to cost you the game. It's as simple as that." Marshall said he hurt his ribs earlier in the week in practice, took a day off and wasn't sure he was going to play Saturday.

"It hurt, man," Marshall said. "I took some pain medicine. It helped for the first three quarters, but then it started wearing off and I felt it."

West Virginia has lost 11 of its last 12 bowl games and is 0-5 in the Gator.

West Virginia, the only unranked team playing in a New Year's Day bowl, continued special teams misdeeds that were costly in losses to Boston College and Pittsburgh to end the regular season.

In the first half, two kickers missed extra point, Brad Cooper booted a kickoff out of bounds, and the Mountaineers later faked a 27-yard field goal attempt, but couldn't convert the first-down run.

"We weren't real confident on kicking field goals after we missed a couple of extra points," Rodriguez said.

Backup Andy Good practiced his kicks feverishly before the start of the third quarter, and it paid off. He made field goals of 44 and 34 yards to cut the deficit to 23-18 early in the fourth period.

The game featured the preseason favorites of the Big East and Atlantic Coast Conference who couldn't secure BCS berths.

The Seminoles needed only six plays to score a season-high 10 points in the first quarter.

Washington went 69 yards down the right sideline on the game's second play for the longest TD run in Gator Bowl history. He had 135 yards by halftime and had only 12 carries for the game, or else he might have challenged the Gator Bowl record of 216 yards by Syracuse's Floyd Little against Tennessee in 1966.

West Virginia's Adam Jones fumbled the ensuing kickoff and Gerard Ross recovered at the Mountaineers' 17, leading to one of three Xavier Beitia field goals.

It was a start similar to last year's Gator Bowl, when FSU scored 12 TD points in the first half, led 24-0 at halftime and beat West Virginia 41-7.

This time, West Virginia fought back. Harris scored on a 36-yard screen pass on the Mountaineers' first offensive series. McCann intercepted Rix later in the quarter and Marshall threw a 40-yard pass to Chris Henry to the 1. Harris took it in for a 12-10 lead.

After the game, Henry, a junior who set a school record with 12 TD catches this season, said he intends to enter next spring's NFL draft.

# Greene delivers final time for Georgia in Outback

By FRED GOODALL

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — As the winningest quarterback in NCAA history, Georgia's David Greene leaves behind quite a legacy.

"If I could hope, it would maybe just be the guy found a way to win. Not for being the best quarterback, but one who found a way," Greene said Saturday after delivering one last time for the eighth-ranked Bulldogs' 42-21 victory over No. 16 Wisconsin in the Outback Bowl.

The senior from Snellville, Ga., threw for 264 yards and two touchdowns in his farewell, continuing his assault on the Southeastern Conference record book and adding victory No. 42 to his NCAA mark.

As usual, he got lots of help.

There was Thomas Brown, who ran for 111 yards and one touchdown, as well as Fred Gibson and Jeremy Thomas, who caught TD passes.

Lombardi Award winner David Pollack did his part, too, forcing a crucial fumble with one of his three sacks to capture Outback MVP award.

The Bulldogs (10-2) improved to 42-10 in four years under coach Mark Richt, the second-best run for a Georgia senior



Georgia quarterback David Greene, right, hugs flanker Fred Gibson after Gibson caught an 18-yard touchdown pass.

class behind the 43-41 record compiled while winning a national championship and three straight SEC titles in the early 1980s.

"This has been the best four years of my life," Pollack said. "Don't cry because it's over. Smile."

Greene has started every game

since Richt took over in 2001. He surpassed Peyton Manning's SEC and NCAA mark for career wins (39) this season and finished 17-1 against nonconference opponents.

The victory gave Georgia at least 10 wins for the third straight season, one shy of the school record set from 1980-83. The Bulldogs were 13-1 with a No. 3 ranking in 2002 and finished 11-3 with a No. 7 ranking in 2003.

"Hopefully the whole Bulldogs nation will always remember this senior class because we did a great job," Gibson said. "Three years in a row 10-win seasons, you couldn't ask for anything better than that."

Greene completed 19 of 38 passes, but also was intercepted twice after throwing only two during the regular season. Wisconsin's Andy Crooks returned the second pick 11 yards for a touchdown, and John Stocco's 2-point conversion pass to Jonathan Orr cut Georgia's lead to three points with 4:13 to go.

The Bulldogs didn't give the Badgers (9-3) a chance to get closer, driving to the Wisconsin 5 before taking a knee on successive plays to run out the clock. Brown gained 49 of his 111 yards rushing on the final drive.

Wisconsin finished with a

three-game losing streak after beginning the season 9-0 to climb into national title contention, but losses to Michigan State and Iowa by a combined 79-21 cost the Badgers a share of the Big Ten title and a spot in the Rose Bowl.

"Quite frankly, I think we over-achieved this season," coach Barry Alvarez said. "This is a football team that had a lot of adversity, had key players hurt. We were consistent offensively all year, yet we found ways to win," Alvarez said.

"You always want to win, but I think you have to be realistic in the same respect. I do not consider it a disappointing year."

It was the third straight appearance in a New Year's Day game for Georgia, which was ranked as high as No. 3 before falling out of contention for a BCS berth because of losses to Tennessee and Auburn.

Greene began the game by directing a 78-yard field goal drive and threw a 19-yard TD pass to Gibson for a 10-6 lead midway through the second quarter.

He zoomed past Manning's SEC record for total offense on his first completion, a 31-yard throw to Leonard Pope that led to Brandon Coutts' 20-yard field goal.

Wisconsin benefited early from

Brown's fumble that set up a field goal and a short Georgia punt that led to Mike Allen's second field goal for a 9-3 lead. A holding penalty wiped a long interception return to the Georgia 15, depriving the Badgers an opportunity to build on the advantage.

Georgia threatened to blow it open early in the second half, scoring on Greene's 24-yard pass to Thomas and Brown's 29-yard run that made it 24-6.

But just when it looked like Wisconsin might get trounced, the Badgers rallied behind the passing of Stocco, who threw a 19-yard pass to Darrin Charles to trim Wisconsin's deficit to 24-13.

The Badgers squandered two opportunities to pull closer when Allen missed a 37-yard field goal and Pollack sacked and took the ball away from Stocco after Wisconsin drove to first-and-goal at the Bulldogs 5.

"In hindsight, it might have been the difference in the ball game," Richt said of the fumble with 5:38 left.

Stocco finished 12-for-27 for 170 yards and no interceptions. He was sacked seven times, and Wisconsin's leader rusher, Anthony Davis, was held to 79 yards on 21 carries.

# :00 just enough for Texas, Iowa

## Walk-on's walk-off field goal gives Longhorns victory, vindication

BY JIM VERTUNO

The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — The kick wobbled. Everyone in the Rose Bowl waited.

Almost in slow motion, the ball floated over the crossbar. Then pandemonium.

With one kick off his right foot, Dusty Mangum had settled once and for all the debate over whether Texas deserved to be in the Rose Bowl.

Mangum's 37-yard field goal as time expired sent No. 6 Texas, behind a stellar effort by quarterback Vince Young, to a wild 38-37 victory over No. 13 Michigan on Saturday in the first matchup of two college football's elite programs.

With flashbuds popping throughout the stadium, Mangum drilled the kick when Michigan had tried to ice him with its last two timeouts.

"I was hoping they would quit calling timeouts," Mangum, a walk-on senior, said. "It's something I've dreamed about. To come down to a pressure kick — why not?"

"We came out here to Pasadena with a mission," he said.

It was the kind of ending Texas coach Mack Brown wanted.

"There will never be a better game in the Rose Bowl," Brown said. "You had two of the top four winningest programs and it should come down to two seconds left."

While his players ran around the field celebrating, Brown gave Mangum a hug for giving him the biggest victory in his seven seasons at Texas.

"I told him he was the luckiest human being in the world," Brown said. "He just said, 'Coach, I love you and thank you for bringing me to Texas.'"

All week, Brown and his Texas players were harassed by questions about their worthiness to

play in a Bowl Championship Series game.

The Longhorns (11-1) earned their trip West when they leapfrogged fourth-ranked California in the final BCS standings, helped by Brown's public pleas.

"I don't think we'll ever answer all the critics in sports," Brown said. "It's amazing to me the last three years when Texas was left out."

"Cal had a great team. They deserved to be in a BCS, in my estimation, but I don't think anybody who really knows football is questioning whether Texas should be here," he said.

Texas tailback Cedric Benson certainly has something to say whoever that might be now.

"I think we shut the critics up," he said. "Let's see what they say now."

Young ran for 192 yards and four touchdowns, passed for 180 yards and a score and drove the Longhorns to the winning kick.

Michigan freshman quarterback Chad Henne tied a Rose Bowl record with four touchdown passes, three to All-American wide receiver Braylon Edwards.

Garrett Rivas kicked three field goals, the last a 42-yarder that squeezed just inside the right upright with 3:04 left to give Michigan a 37-35 lead.

By bumping Cal, Texas also crashed the Rose Bowl's long-standing tradition that the "Granddaddy" of bowl games pits a Pac-10 team against the Big Ten champ.

Michigan (9-3) has the most victories in college football with 842 and Texas is third with 787. And while it took more than 100 years for them to meet on the field, their first was a doozy.

With Young's razzle-dazzle on touchdowns runs of 20, 60, 10 and 23 yards and Henne's scoring throws to Edwards, the game was an offensive showcase that simply came down to who had the ball last.



Texas linemen Derek Lokay celebrates the Longhorns' last-second, 38-37 victory over Michigan in the Rose Bowl on Saturday.

"I was just going out and doing my thing," Young said. "If I see a hole, I run the ball."

Michigan's Steve Breaston set a Rose Bowl record with 315 all-purpose yards, breaking the mark of 276 set by O.J. Simpson in 1969.

The Wolverines nearly spoiled it for Texas, but Young simply wouldn't let them.

Michigan was vulnerable against mobile quarterbacks all season and didn't come close to containing Young, who calls his ability to avoid tacklers in the open field the "Texas Two-Step."

"He was tough to tackle, but we should have gotten to him several times," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said. "I was disappointed with the loss and with the tackling."

Young ran for a TD and passed for one in the first half, and Henne matched him with two scoring strikes to Edwards that made it 14-14 at halftime.

The fun had only just begun. Young's second TD was a longer version of his first. Dropping back to pass, he took a quick read of the field then took off. He shook off a tackle 15 yards upfield and then outraced All-America safety Ernest Shazor to the end zone to make it 21-14.

Breaston, who gave the Wolverines good field position with his kick, returns all afternoon, brought the ball out to the 50. Three plays later, he hauled in a pass from Henne and sprinted to the end zone, diving for the pylon to make it 21-all.

By early in the third quarter, Texas had taken the lead three times only to have Michigan tie it. The Wolverines took their first lead when Henne hit Edwards from 9 yards out and stretched it to 31-21 when Rivas kicked a 44-yard field goal.

After Rivas' field goal made it 34-28, Young scrambled again for the end zone, leaving the Wolverines either punching at the air in frustration or bending over and gasping for breath as Texas took a 35-34 lead.

## Unlikely TD strike as time expires lifts Hawkeyes in Saban's farewell

BY STEVEN WINE

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Time ran out on the Nick Saban era at LSU, leaving the Iowa Hawkeyes not a second to spare.

Drew Tate threw a 56-yard touchdown pass to Warren Holloway on the final play Saturday, a miracle ending that denied Saban a triumphant sendoff to the NFL. Instead No. 11 Iowa stunned No. 12 Louisiana State 30-25 in the Capital One Bowl.

"You always dislike losing a game, especially losing a game like this," said Saban, who will become the Miami Dolphins' coach next week.

Making the finish all the more improbable: Fifth-year senior Holloway scored the first touchdown of his career.

"It really hasn't hit me yet," he said. "Maybe in a month or so."

His score capped a wild fourth quarter and spoiled a comeback by the Tigers, who overcame a 12-point deficit with 8 1/2 minutes left.

Freshman JaMarcus Russell came off the bench to spark LSU's rally, throwing two touchdown passes to Skyler Green. When they connected for a 3-yard score, the Tigers led 25-24 with 46 seconds to go.

After Tate completed two passes, a penalty pushed Iowa back to its 44 with 14 seconds left. Tate wound up and threw long to Holloway, who was left open because of a mixup in the LSU secondary. He caught the pass in stride at the 10 and dashed to the end zone as time expired.

"I thought I overthrew him," Tate said. "Once Warren caught it, he wasn't going down."

As Holloway scored, Saban threw up his arms in frustration, then watched the entire Iowa team stage a mob scene in the end zone.

"The last 14 or 20 seconds of this game somewhat tarnish the things that this team has accomplished in its four years," Saban said. "I only feel badly that I could not do more to help the players play better..."

"Mental errors are a terrible way to lose, because that means the other guy didn't really physically beat you. You really beat yourself."

While Saban heads for the NFL, Iowa fans are glad coach Kirk Ferentz has turned down overtures from the pros. The Hawkeyes (10-2) won their eighth game in a row to reach double digits in victories for the third consecutive year under Ferentz.

Four of their victories this season came by a combined 11 points.

"I don't know if you could write a better script," Ferentz said. "Nobody would believe it if you did."

Aside from the fourth-quarter rally, LSU (9-3) struggled on offense and its special teams looked sloppy playing one week after Saban announced his resignation. He finished 48-16 in five years with the Tigers, leading them to a bowl game every season and to the BCS national championship in 2003.

LSU, which rallied in the fourth quarter to win four times during the season, came back after Iowa took a 24-12 lead with 12:48 left.

Russell capped a 74-yard drive by hitting Green with a 22-yard scoring pass. The Tigers forced a punt, and this time Russell moved them 69 yards for a one-point lead that lasted until the final play.

While Tate and Holloway were the heroes, special teams were the difference. LSU had two punts blocked, missed a 40-yard extra-point kick after committing two penalties, and came up short when Saban failed a 39-yard field-goal attempt.



Michigan's Leon Hall (29) and Texas' Lymas Sneed collide while going for a pass during the third quarter of Saturday's Rose Bowl game.



Iowa's Warren Holloway (86) breaks away from LSU's Travis Daniels on the way to the game-winning score in Saturday's Capital One Bowl.

## SPORTS



Wade is spectacular in Heat's  
14th straight victory,  
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# Utes ring in New Year at 12-0

## Utah caps its perfect season by overwhelming Pittsburgh

BY BOB BAUM  
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Utah looked like a powerhouse that deserved a better final test to its BCS-busting season.

The fifth-ranked Utes, behind the cool efficiency of Alex Smith, used their baffling spread offense and an underrated defense to dominate 19th-ranked Pittsburgh 35-7 in the Fiesta Bowl on Saturday night.

Utah was a 16-point favorite, the biggest margin of any of the bowls, and it was a safe bet.

Smith completed 29 of 37 passes, four of them for touchdowns, for 328 yards and the Utes sacked Pitt's Tyler Palko nine times, a Fiesta Bowl record.

Smith, a Heisman Trophy finalist who is considering going to the NFL after this, his junior, season, also rushed 15 times for 68 yards.

Paris Warren caught 15 passes, breaking the Fiesta record of 11 set by Kellen Winslow of Miami in the 2003 national championship loss to Ohio State.

Warren, who transferred from Oregon in 2002, had 198 yards receiving, third-most in Fiesta Bowl history. Smith's 78 percent completion rate was also a Fiesta Bowl mark.

"It doesn't get any better than this," Warren told the boisterous Utah supporters at the postgame awards ceremony.



Smith and Warren shared the offensive MVP award, and Utah nose guard Steve Fifita was named the defensive MVP.

Coach Urban Meyer punctuated two memorable years in Salt Lake City with the Utes' first unbeaten, untied season since 1930. He leaves for Florida after making Utah the first team from outside the six BCS conferences to force its way into a Bowl Championship Series game.

"This is the best group of young men I've ever been around," Meyer said. "It's going to be hard to say goodbye, but we're saying goodbye 12-0."

Tens of thousands of Utah fans who made up at least three-fourths of the sellout crowd of 73,519 were not disappointed.

Utah scored touchdowns on five of its first seven possessions, including all three in the third quarter.

SEE UTES ON PAGE 29



Utah's Marquess Lebetter (55) celebrates with teammate Reza Williams after sacking Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko in the second quarter. The Utes sacked Palko a Fiesta Bowl record nine times.



Clausen helps Vols snap bad string

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Georgia's seniors add to their legacy

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FSU overcomes errors, tops WVU

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Iowa's last-play TD stuns LSU

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ROSE BOWL GAME



FG as time expires vindicates Texas

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# Kansas rallies, gets final lift from Langford twister in OT

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